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Submission: I wish object to the NSW State Government's proposed local government amalgamation for Leichhardt Council.

For those matters that most impact our daily lives local government is the most significant. It is, thankfully, also the most assessable. The proposed amalgamations for Leichhardt would give a population of over 340,000, over 12 times greater than the current OECD average for local government bodies and 66% of the current Tasmanian population that has a full State government for just over 500,000 residents and 29 local government areas.

The proposed increase in LGA population will inevitably decrease the rate payers access to Councillors and council staff. It will also increase party political involvement at the expense of small parties and independent candidates. Both outcomes at the expense of real and perceived democracy for the individual resident.

Bigger is not better. It is not a measure of increased efficiency. The proposed amalgamations will benefit only the bureaucracies and interests of big well resourced players, whether political parties or corporate developers.