

Author name: R. Gibson

Date of submission: Monday, July 27, 2015

Submission: I strongly support the City of Sydney's opposition to any amalgamations with neighbouring councils. I have lived in Redfern for over 34 years and can attest to the marked improvements that have occurred in my suburb as a result of actions by the City of Sydney Council. These improvements include the renovation of Redfern Park and sports ground, the paving of Redfern Street and putting power underground, the refurbishment of Redfern Town Hall, good garbage collection and street cleaning services and ready access to Council services via a Neighbourhood Service Centre. Under an enlarged council this momentum for improvement may well be lost, or even reversed, due to a lack of focus on local issues. Under the present system I feel that I have direct contact and personal acquaintance with individual councillors. Under an enlarged system this would be lost and the Council would become a much more remote body, removed from the day-to-day concerns of local residents. Overall, I see no good reasons for amalgamation. The City of Sydney Council is financially secure, is run efficiently without corruption, provides excellent services for residents, has fostered a flourishing commercial sector, is ecologically responsible and has sound plans for the future of the city. I strongly favour leaving the present arrangement in place.