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Submission: I have lived in Hunters Hill for more than 50 years. I have been unsupportive of every attempt to amalgamate our Council with others and do not support amalgamating Hunter's Hill Council in a forced amalgamation scenario which would see it part of a mega-council.

In a mega-council scenario we would be left with less than one full-time Councillor for our existing 12000+ residents and ratepayers. This is unacceptable. Council currently has a good turnaround time for processing issues; this will not be the case if we are part of a large bureaucracy.

Not all ratepayers in Hunters Hill are rich. There are many pensioners who have lived here all their lives. We are fortunate that, at the moment, our actual rate percentage is low compared to other councils in Sydney. If our rates rose 20-30% as part of a mega-council these pensioners would suffer. So what if they have to sell and move somewhere cheaper and not so nice, you say. I say: This is their home. They deserve to be able to stay here. I don't earn much in my own business and can only just afford to pay the rates as it is.

We have a conveniently-located Town Hall where our residents and ratepayers can talk to Council staff in person. For many of us it's within walking distance. If we are part of a mega-council we will have to travel half way across northern Sydney to council chambers and staff. For those pensioners who don't drive that will mean at least an hour on a bus.

Forced amalgamation will not be good for the residents of Hunters Hill, financially or practically.