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Submission: I am a resident in the City of Sydney council area. I understand that the NSW government is driving a process under IPART to amalgamate local councils, to form larger consolidated councils, on the assumption of greater efficiencies and more effective governance. In the case of my local council this would mean amalgamating Sydney with Randwick, Waverley, Botany, and Woollahra councils.

I understand the drive for consolidation in smaller councils with dispersed populations and high unit costs for delivery of services. I am concerned that the IPART process does not recognise current positive performance and efficient service delivery as has occurred in Sydney Council, and the risks entailed in amalgamating it with other councils with different characteristics. There are major costs involved in amalgamation and these can be recovered over time in some cases where there are shared objectives and common or complementary characteristics across the entities being merged. This would not be the case in amalgamating Sydney with the other four, quite different councils. There is a risk that the process could devalue the amenity of Sydney, and its value as a tourist and business destination.

I urge you to acknowledge that the Sydney City Council is fit for purpose and 'fit for the future', and to maintain it as a distinct local council.