

Author name: T. Blomfield

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Submission: I have been a rate payer in the Leichhardt Local Government Area (more specifically Balmain and Birchgrove) since July 1987.

Throughout this twenty-eight year period, I have witnessed many elected aldermen/women, councillors and mayors serving my LGA in the ways in which they consider would be of maximum benefit to my fellow rate payers and me, bringing about a desirable community in which to live and work.

Currently, Leichhardt Municipal Council is the third most financially sustainable council out of the forty-one councils in the whole of metropolitan Sydney. It has clearly demonstrated that it can meet all of the criteria for NSW State Government's "Fit for the Future". On that score alone, there is no reason why, if Council's management of the municipality continues as such, that it cannot remain a viable, 'Stand Alone' council – one that guards the rights of its ratepayers as only a 'Stand Alone' council can do.