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Submission: Warringah is one of the strongest councils in NSW in terms of financial and asset management. On this basis, there is no evidence to support an amalgamation with adjoining Council's. It is a fact that amalgamations in Queensland did not improve the 'efficiency' or operation of these Council's.

Having regard to the above, it is theory only that the best scale and capacity for local government in the region requires Warringah to merge. There are no real examples to prove the success of local government mergers. Can examples please be provided?

Warringah Council, like other Councils, has advertised their position for pro amalgamation since the start. No concern with that except the data collection is simply skewed from these techniques.

Adjoining and surrounding Council's can vastly improve their situation by following what Warringah Council has done in terms of financial and asset management. Remember, this Council was a basket case, in the hands of caretakers on several occasions.

Amalgamations will result in areas and populations that far exceed that of state and national seats. That is the wrong way. Amalgamation will result in a complete loss of local identity and a large Council devoid of identity. Palm Beach is completely different to Manly and afar. Yet, it will be treated the same or attempted not by general planning and development rules.

The benefit of millions and trillions of dollars to local councils to spend on infrastructure to entice amalgamation is close to bribery. The funds are available, so why is this the only way for the funds to be spent. Other options have not been investigated thoroughly.

In summary, it has never been proved that larger councils will maintain local interest, local identity and would create the best scale and capacity for local government in the region. It is not a fact.

kind regards