

June Lunsmann

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Dear Sir/Madam

Firstly

State Government should beware!

Why does the State Government want to merge the local government areas?

The State Government has consistently devolved many running costs to local government most of whom have been able to cope.

Does the State Government fear Local Government?

So if this is the case does the State Government realise that megacouncils would replace it?

So we need to keep our local government and rid ourselves of the extra layer of State Government but without megacouncils.

I do not support any forced amalgamations for the following:

1. The State Government in its criteria for 'Fit for the Future' blueprint for the future totally ignores many of the issues that residents hold dearly ie the rapport between residents and councillors and staff albeit not always what the residents would want but at least consulted. It instead concentrates on operational, financial, and asset driven results and does not take into consideration social measures such as public value, creativity or recreational and cultural needs and particularly heritage in the Leichhardt Municipality.

It only concentrates on finance and outcomes.

2. The State Government in its "Fit for the Future" has no policy on heritage conservation which is amplified by its selling off/leasing historic buildings in the CBD whereas individual councils do consider this of importance and have policies in place.

3) No argument has been put supporting different scales of amalgamation. Already Leichhardt and Marrickville share resources particularly supporting the community.

4. It is claimed that \$millions would be saved but there is no evidence of this. If it takes millions to set up and millions are saved who would benefit from the savings?

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