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Submission: To IPART,

I am strongly against Marrickville council merging with another council. Council provides great environmental and social services which I consider excellent value for money. They are innovative, efficient and forward-thinking; delivering projects like the Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre, installing solar panels on council facilities, encouraging small live music venues around the Marrickville/Sydenham area, providing excellent quality childcare, great libraries and improving the environment with rain gardens and natural native plant habitat areas in parks.

When speaking with friends who live in neighbouring council areas, I hear that services and new facilities are not as good. If Marrickville council had to merge with another council I fear all this excellence would be diluted down to just average-ness.

I am also against large councils in principal, not just on a personal level. Each locality in Sydney is unique, and it is to everyone's benefit that it stays that way. I don't want one homogenous mass of suburbs where individuals have less power to influence outcomes affecting the feel of their local area. Other areas are not as sustainability focused as Marrickville, they're not so concerned with social justice issues and they don't necessarily value and support vibrant sub-cultures as much as Marrickville does. An amalgamation would impact negatively on the unique feel of the Marrickville LGA.

Surveys show that most Marrickville residents don't want to amalgamate. Please do not force us to merge against our will.