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Submission: I would like to register my strong objection to my Council (Marrickville Council) being forcibly amalgamated. While I can see some advantages if we were to be amalgamated with City of Sydney (I live in Camperdown) I understand that this option is not open to us. I can also see that we could have a lot in common with Leichhardt Council, but again, simply amalgamating with Leichhardt is also not an option. I have serious concerns about amalgamating with Ashfield, Burwood, Strathfield, and Canada Bay – particularly as some of these Councils are worse off and do not reflect our demographics, or the values that I hold dear.

I would also like to put on record that the amalgamation process has been rushed and has not had enough public scrutiny. I am extremely disappointed that the State Government has chosen to only use financial benchmarks instead of also examining the social aspects and consequences of amalgamations.

I live in Camperdown for a reason. That was a very considered choice I made. It is very unfair to have that choice taken away from me.

I used to live in far north NSW. I can assure you that if I, or any of my friends, had been told that we were being moved in Queensland, we would not have been happy about it because we are proud to be New South Welsh-people. Perhaps that is putting my argument in a way that you can understand and relate to.

I would like to think that this process is not just a sham for forcing councils to amalgamate, but is actually a genuine, sincere attempt to reform and assist councils to be better managed.