

From: Chris McGregor [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 28 July 2015 11:51 AM
To: Local Government Mailbox
Cc: Chris McGregor
Subject: Merger of local councils

I oppose the proposed rationalisation of smaller councils into mega councils. There is no reliable evidence that such amalgamations save money or result in increased benefits to ratepayers per se. My own council, Canada Bay is made up of two merged councils. After 15 years we are still not over the repercussions. For example, our merged computer systems have only recently been installed. I am not making this up! It takes years to get back to normality.

Please note that the international standard for local government resident numbers in developed countries is about 28,000 residents. This makes Mosman and Hunters Hill the ideal size as they are currently configured!

We are already way above that standard in Sydney which may help to explain why councils are not functioning at peak performance. We need to reduce the size of councils, not increase them.

With all the efficiency evidence to the contrary, you have to wonder what the political agenda might be behind the proposed policy change. I suspect it is driven by the increased ease with which the two major parties would better dominate larger Councils. Not good enough.

Chris McGregor
[REDACTED]