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Submission: As a longtime resident of Leichhardt Council, I want Leichhardt Council very much to remain as an independent council and express my opposition to any merger with other councils to form a greater entity.

Firstly, I believe Leichhardt Council is very efficient and it is in close touch with the residents of the area. It is at the local level of government that we individual inhabitants have closest connection with government and I have had many reasons to be in communication with Council over the years on matters which really affect my daily living. I find it reassuring to be able to speak personally with a Councillor and know that my concern is receiving attention.

Secondly, Council has prepared submissions showing that Leichhardt Council is financially and performance-wise efficient. There is no evidence to show that the bigger the entity the more efficient it is. In fact the reverse is often the case. I do not want my efficient, approachable and effective Leichhardt Council to be merged with other councils.

Council operates at the Local Government level and it needs to stay local. Its distinction from State and Federal levels of government needs to be maintained.

Thank you.

Eleanor Er