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Submission: I bought my home in Strathfield four years ago because of the amenities it provides and because it is a well run local government area with an excellent reputation. Anyone who buys in the Strathfield area pays a premium for their home because of its location, reputation and amenities. I (and likely others) who have bought homes recently would not have been prepared to buy in the Strathfield area and pay a premium if we had known it was going to be amalgamated with surrounding Councils. I have read all the details of the proposed amalgamation and I can find no benefit whatever for residents of Strathfield and in fact there will be significant costs. The costs to residents will include higher Council debt levels with a projected increase in rates of 16%; poorer level of councillor representation; reduced levels of council asset maintenance & renewal & an increase in infrastructure backlog. It is estimated the cost of an amalgamation will be \$70m in excess of the Govt's \$16.5m which ratepayers will have to fund with higher rates. This is a waste of money. A better proposal is for Strathfield to share resources with surrounding Councils & maintain local control over local resources & local facilities via local decision making. Thank you for your time.