

Author name: H. Davie

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Submission: I am very concerned about the forced proposed amalgamation of 6 Councils (size of Tasmania) and do not want Marrickville Council to be amalgamated as it is not in the residents or communities interest. I am concerned that the "savings" will not be realised , that rates and costs will be increased whilst services will decline.

I fear that forcing amalgamations is a threat to our democracy as elected councillors would represent many more people and access to Councillors would be restricted.

Voters in NSW did not vote for forced amalgamation of Councils as they were assured that there would be not "forced amalgamations" before the last election.

The report by Morrison Low commissioned by Marrickville Council indicates that Marrickville Council is "Fit for the Future" when evaluated against the set criteria and as a "stand alone council" does better than the 6 Councils.

Residents when consulted have overwhelmingly told Council that they do not want to amalgamate fearing loss of sense of our community and thinking it very unfair that we be forced to take on other Councils debts.

The report "Why Local Government Matters" undertaken by the UTS Centre for Local Government indicates that Australians think that local government is the best level of government to make decisions about the local area.

I agree with this finding. Marrickville Council is sustainable, looks after infrastructure well and is continually providing good value for money. It does an efficient job, providing excellent services for the very diverse community it serves and should be left as a "Stand alone" Council to continue its good work.