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I oppose the amalgamation of the City of Sydney with adjoining councils for the following reasons:

- * the City of Sydney is already big enough, having undergone one amalgamation in 2004. A further amalgamation would put current services and facilities at risk of being diminished, underfunded and inequitably distributed.
- * previous experience of council amalgamations, such as those undertaken in Victoria, have not delivered any substantial cost savings; rather delivering a highly disgruntled electorate who have seen their ratepayers dollars stretched too thinly to deliver diminished, rather than enhanced, services.
- * the City of Sydney has shown, by undertaking and implementing a range of strategic, cultural, business and community consultations and initiatives, that it has a vision and plan for the City, a city of villages. An amalgamation would put substantial current and future planning, private investments and public initiatives at risk for no foreseeable economic or social benefit.
- * an amalgamation of the City of Sydney would greatly diminish the social fabric of the city of villages concept, an initiative that has been hugely successful in consolidating the CBD and surrounding areas as a liveable, workable and environmentally sustainable and diverse place in which to live.
- * the current model for the City of Sydney is working. As a council it meets and usually exceeds ratepayers needs; it is financially responsible and sustainable. In other words "if it ain't broken then don't fix it." It is about time politicians in this country learn to leave what is working well alone!
- * A far more efficient use of the IPART council review funds would be to specifically target those council that need assistance and more transparent, viable and sustainable management. City of Sydney does not fall into this category and should not be targeted for amalgamation.