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Submission: I oppose the merger with Auburn for the following reasons:

- Poor consultation by Burwood Council on merger proposal. Burwood Council's only consultation on the proposed merger was a phone survey of 408 people (1.1% resident Burwood population ) conducted over a 4-day period in late May, 2015. This is not representative of community views.
- Unworkable Geographical boundaries and weak links. The proposed council merger has as donut shape as Burwood has no common boundaries with Auburn. There are no existing functional interactions and no economic, demographic or cultural links between Burwood and Auburn Council. Burwood councils vision for the future bears no similarity to that of Auburn's.
- Financial risk . There are significant differing financial outlook for each of the 3 Councils: Auburn:negative, Burwood: positive, Canada Bay: neutral. This will create a burden on Burwood residents who may bear the costs of the other Council's less than positive financial outlook. will impact on Burwood residents
- Unequal partners - With large size differences between the councils, the amalgamations will not be a merger of equals but a takeover by Auburn (about 78,000 residents) and Canada Bay (about 80,000 residents) of Burwood (about 34,000 residents).
- Loss of Local Representation Burwood residents will experience a significant loss of political representation from currently 1:5000 to 1: 13000.
- Loss of Regional Representation -The strategic capacity of Burwood would be reduced. Burwood is typically not grouped within the same region as Auburn for the purposes of State and Federal service delivery and strategic planning. For example Burwood is grouped within the same region with Strathfield, Canada Bay Canterbury, Ashfield, Leichhardt Marrickville and City of Sydney for Medicare Local, NSW Health Sydney Local Health District, NSW Police Inner Metropolitan Region, NSW Metropolitan Strategy Central Region. Auburn Council is grouped in a different region for these services.

Burwood should stand alone for the following reasons:

- Community support- 68%
- Local services and activities performed by Burwood Council are best managed at a local level. The main reason, Burwood residents don't support amalgamation is because they believe that local services would be neglected under an amalgamation (p 68, Burwood Council Community Research November 2014).
- All 7 benchmarks will be met
- Council has positive financial outlook
- Burwood Council's financial position is sound. Burwood Council was identified by NSW Treasury Corporation as one of only five councils in NSW with a positive financial outlook. We should not have to amalgamate with poor performing councils to improve statistics of poor performers.
- 70 % income generated from own source
- Focus on heritage and conservation protection - this is not a consideration at Auburn
- Council representatives on Westconnex and Parramatta Rd
- S-tate, Federal and private agencies are currently established or recently relocated their services, to Burwood including Burwood Court House, NSW Police Burwood Local Area Command, Burwood Bus Depot and renowned educational institutions MLC, PLC, Burwood Girls High School and OTEN.
- Local supportive political representation.
- Regional representation-, [REDACTED] Board member on peak body Local -Government NSW and Mayor is President SSROC