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Submission: A submission from the Friends of the Pymont Community Centre points out that this is an untypical suburb, with virtually no community or public resources nor potential to develop these. It is difficult enough to have our needs addressed by the City of Sydney Council, which has the large demands of central Sydney, a global city and business centre, to satisfy. Despite this, we have worked over a number of years and have had success with many matters to which we have drawn Council's attention. This has happened because we have sought information about the right people to contact on Council and have been successful in establishing connections with them and bringing about changes in line with community expectations and needs.

If amalgamation with a slew of Councils on the eastern side of the CBD, as proposed by Government, were to be enforced, Pymont, Ultimo and Glebe – suburbs that have common concerns - would be a thin rind on the outer edge of a large LGA, most of which is not connected to us by public transport, difficult to access across a congested CBD, and with very few issues of mutual interest.

Setting aside the specific case of this proposal, amalgamation of Councils without ceding some powers to them from state government and devising more direct forms of representation of residents and ratepayers on Council is essentially anti-democratic, taking decision-making to a further remove from that which currently exists. The tendency these days of larger bodies to 'outsource' more and more functions is speciously justified as more efficient, but those of us with direct experience of this know how it leads to a huge waste of money on 'consultants', and deteriorating services. In all, the consequence of amalgamation will be to alienate communities. At a time when many of us are furious at the non-responsiveness of state and federal governments to the needs of the people they purport to represent, this is dangerous.

In short, the Federation needs more radical reform than the destruction of Councils which – and the City of Sydney Council is an example – have proven to be in touch with their communities in ways that other levels of government are not. I strongly urge IPART to reject forced amalgamations generally, and the City of Sydney Council in particular.