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Submission: To Whom it May Concern,

I believe amalgamating Leichhardt Council into other Councils would be a disaster. The whole principle of local communities having a say, in particular with respect to planning, is that counselors are aware of what local people want. Often when organisations (and for that matter Government Depts) get too large, they lose sight of what's important at the grass roots level, and what are the important issues for local people. As a Rozelle resident I'm concerned about the prospect of high rise developments in the area and what this will mean to the community, which has a relaxed and 'village' atmosphere. If Leichhardt is amalgamated into a number of larger councils, I believe this local 'village' community will be completely lost, where residents won't be heard and changes at a much broader level will overtake local voices. Rozelle then could become how North Sydney (also close to the city) was 50 years ago, with high rises overtaking the 'cottage' suburb, completely changing the social fabric of the area. Hence I believe merging with larger councils would not be beneficial at all, especially given that local councils now are economically sustainable.