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Submission: Dear Sir/Madam

Pymont Ultimo Landcare is one of many volunteer groups in the Pymont peninsula. We organise ourselves, draw up our program of works, and decide how to carry it through. Largely self-sufficient, we do depend on local government to support our work and to supply some material. Our experience may be typical of volunteer groups generally.

To achieve our objectives we work closely with City of Sydney officers, who endorse what we do and understand what we require. Much has been achieved over the past decade through our cooperation with Council officers and Councillors. It is unlikely that so much good work could have been realised if we were part of a larger local government, whose decision-makers would be further removed from our realities. They would inevitably be strait-jacketed by commitments to services designed for an abstract average suburb.

Our immediate concern is the disruption of services and communication that necessarily follows from amalgamations. When the City of Sydney merged with South Sydney Council, roles were duplicated for many months until a new structure emerged; and it took years for local groups and relevant Council officers to discover each other, and then to understand each other's procedures, priorities and work habits. We would not want to see that disorientation repeated on an even larger scale.

In the longer term, Pymont Ultimo Landcare believes it would be very difficult for a larger local government body to match its services to grass roots community needs. It would be more like a state government bureaucracy than an interactive local government. We therefore do not support the proposed amalgamation.

Yours sincerely

Karen Wyatt

Secretary - Pymont Ultimo Landcare Inc