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Submission: Northern Beaches Greens are strongly opposed to amalgamation in any form, like the majority of Pittwater residents. Many of our Greens members were among those who fought for Pittwater's independence all those years ago. Being aware of the costs of running an election campaign, amalgamation can be seen as a power grab by larger political parties, who benefit from big donations and can therefore afford to fund larger campaigns. Council diversity will diminish due to the exorbitant costs of campaigns, while developers and politicians will prosper. An increase in scale is a loss of democracy, as residents then lose a voice on issues of local concern that impact them. Therefore a reduction in councillor representation and relationships with community is detrimental.

Councils in NSW are already large when compared with other countries. The emphasis on 'scale and capacity' is pointless when Pittwater council delivers well and within budget using buying co-ops such as ROC already.

Pittwater is distinct from Warringah and each has a 'brand' name with an identity attached, therefore a price in an economic sense. Locals identify with and value this unique natural environment and are committed to preserving and caring for it. Warringah council does not share the approach to planning decisions and environmental sustainability much valued by Pittwater residents.

Evidence from other mega- councils suggest it's not a successful model being pushed by the state govt, especially when considering costs of amalgamation and then establishing the bureaucracy etc required to run on this scale. Ultimately there is not necessarily a financial saving, but a loss of democratic representation for communities.