

**Submission
No 1**

INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Mr Alex Jewson

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1.(n) I have serious concerns about how council areas are to maintain a reasonable level of representation. I live in Randwick Council, at the 2011 census, we had 1 councilor per ~8600 residents, 15 in total. Adjacent local councils include Waverly at 1:~5300 residents, Botany at 1:~5600, and Woollahra at 1:~3500. When you compare that to electorates similar in size to those proposed under the "Global City" such as Gold Coast City, where there is only 1:~37700 you have to wonder if such representation can accurately reflect the needs of the population.

There are two other major factors for me that will likely decrease the level of effective representation, first, at least in my local area, the proposed Global City is to include two area's with very different needs, the CBD and it's huge business community, and the Eastern Suburbs which is primarily light/medium residential. It's not that I doubt in the ability of the council to deal with issues arising from such differences, but that it may drastically increase time needed for council meetings. Also related to the length of meetings if, in order to attempt to offset the lack of representation due to population you simply add councilors, you are likely to end up with a situation like in Brisbane, with 27 councilors in one of the largest councils in Australia, where council meetings often run in excess of 4 or 5 hours. I feel like that is limiting access for anyone in full time work or anyone with dependents, as your meetings either need to start earlier or finish late.