

**Submission
No 166**

INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Mr Nigel Cadogan

Date received: 4/07/2015

Submission to the General Purpose Standing Committee No.6

on the Enquiry into local government in New South Wales.

I, Nigel Cadogan, of am making this submission on behalf of
a group of 35 local residents in Black St, Victoria Rd, Juliett St and Llewellyn St Marrickville.

In general we are proud of, and happy with, our local Marrickville Council.

We can see there may be ways to improve the efficiency of Local Government, but that must NOT be at the cost of reducing its **local** nature.

We believe that there may be ways to improve the efficiency of Council service delivery through common services, but we are opposed to political amalgamation because of the impact on the responsiveness of local council to the concerns of residents. It is the essence of councils that they are 'local' with local councillors and community focussed services. We fear this element will be lost if mega councils are formed.

So, we are particularly concerned with item 1(n) of your terms of reference,

Protecting and delivering democratic structures for local government that ensure it remains close to the people it serves

because we fear that as we move from a council of 12 with each councillor representing around 7000 residents, to say a council of 15 with each councillor representing 30,000 residents, we will lose the local, independent, and accessible quality of our representatives.