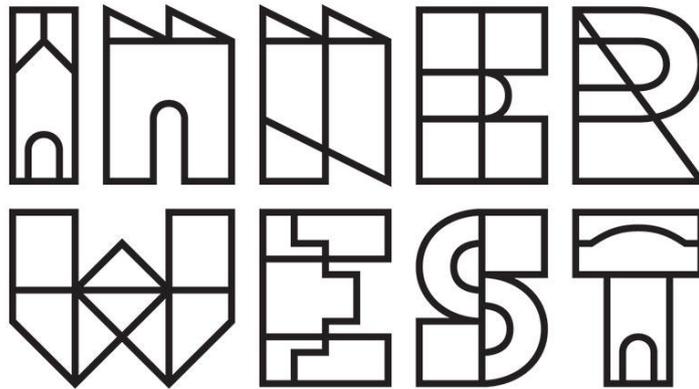


# AGENDA

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**COUNCIL MEETING**

**TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2021**

**6.30pm**

## **Live Streaming of Council Meeting**

In the spirit of open, accessible and transparent government, this meeting of the Inner West Council is being streamed live on Council's website. By speaking at a Council meeting, members of the public agree to being recorded and must ensure their speech to the Council is respectful and use appropriate language. A person who uses defamatory, discriminatory or offensive language may be exposed to liability for which Council takes no responsibility. Any part of this meeting that is held in closed session will not be recorded

## **Pre-Registration to Speak at Council Meetings**

Speaking at a Council Meeting is conducted through an online software application called Zoom. Members of the public must register by 2pm of the day of the Meeting to speak at Council Meetings. If you wish to register to speak please fill in a [Register to Speak Form](#), available from the Inner West Council website, including:

- your name;
- contact details;
- item on the Agenda you wish to speak to; and
- whether you are for or against the recommendation in the agenda.

## **Are there any rules for speaking at a Council Meeting?**

The following rules apply when addressing a Council meeting:

- keep your address to the point, the time allowed for each speaker is limited to three minutes. This time limit applies, no matter how many items are addressed by the speaker;
- when addressing the Meeting you must speak to the Chairperson;
- the Chairperson may curtail public participation where the information being presented is considered repetitive or irrelevant; and
- only 3 speakers for and against an Agenda Item are allowed.

## **What happens after I submit the form?**

You will be contacted by Governance Staff and provided with a link to the online meeting. Your request will then be added to a list that is shown to the Chairperson on the night of the meeting. Public speakers will be allowed into the Meeting when it is their time to speak.

Where Items are deferred, Council reserves the right to defer speakers until that Item is heard on the next occasion.

## PRECIS

<b>1</b>	<b>Acknowledgement of Country</b>		
<b>2</b>	<b>Apologies</b>		
<b>3</b>	<b>Notice of Webcasting</b>		
<b>4</b>	<b>Disclosures of Interest (Section 451 of the Local Government Act and Council’s Code of Conduct)</b>		
<b>5</b>	<b>Moment of Quiet Contemplation</b>		
<b>6</b>	<b>Confirmation of Minutes</b>	<b>Page</b>	
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<b>8</b>	<b>Condolence Motions</b>		
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	Nil at the time of printing.		
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	Nil at the time of printing.		

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**Minutes of Ordinary Council Meeting held remotely and livestreamed on Council's website on 24 August 2021**

**Meeting commenced at 6.31 pm**

**Present:**

Darcy Byrne	Mayor
Victor Macri	Deputy Mayor
Marghanita Da Cruz	Councillor
Mark Drury	Councillor
Lucille McKenna OAM	Councillor
Colin Hesse	Councillor
Sam Iskandar	Councillor (6:36pm)
Tom Kiat	Councillor
Pauline Lockie	Councillor
Julie Passas	Councillor
Rochelle Porteous	Councillor
Vittoria Raciti	Councillor
John Stamolis	Councillor
Louise Steer	Councillor
Peter Gainsford	General Manager
Graeme Palmer	Acting Director Development and Recreation
Cathy Edwards-Davis	Director Infrastructure
Caroline McLeod	Acting Director City Living
Peter Livanes	Acting Director Corporate
Aaron Callaghan	Parks and Recreation Planning Manager
Katherine Paixao	Acting Manager Governance
Carmelina Giannini	Acting Governance Coordinator

**APOLOGIES:**

**Motion: (Byrne/Drury)**

THAT apologies from Councillor York be accepted.

**Motion Carried**

**For Motion:** Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis and Steer

**Against Motion:** Nil

**DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS:**

Councillor Lockie declared a non-significant, non-pecuniary interest in Item 28 Mayoral Minute: Compliance Levies as she works at the City of Sydney in the Office of the Lord Mayor.

**Motion: (Porteous/Hesse)**

**THAT Council note the disclosure of interest.**

**Motion Carried**

**For Motion:** Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis and Steer

**Against Motion:** Nil

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

**Motion: (Drury/Byrne)**

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 3 August 2021 be confirmed as a correct record.

**Motion Carried**

**For Motion:** Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis and Steer

**Against Motion:** Nil

Councillor Iskandar entered the Meeting at 6:36 pm.

Councillor Byrne left the Meeting at 6:54 pm. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Macri assumed the chair.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

The registered speakers were asked to address the meeting. The list of speakers is available on the last page of these minutes.

Councillor Byrne returned to the Meeting at 7:23 pm. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Macri vacated the Chair and the Mayor, Councillor Byrne assumed the Chair.

Councillor Passas left the Meeting at 7:25 pm.

**C0821(4) Item 1      Notice of Motion: Condolence Motion: Kenneth George Adderley of Summer Hill**

**Motion: (Drury/Byrne)**

**THAT Council notes with sadness this passing of Kenneth George Adderley of Summer Hill, we express our condolences to his grandmother C/r Lucille McKenna OAM and to his parents, Melinda and Paul and to his siblings Eloise, Patrick and Fergus and to the wider family.**

**Motion Carried**

**For Motion:** Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis and Steer

**Against Motion:** Nil

**Absent:** Cr Passas

Councillor Passas returned to the Meeting at 7:34 pm.

**C0821(4) Item 29      Mayoral Minute: Impacts on Residents from State Government Infrastructure Projects During Lockdown**

**Motion: (Byrne)**

**THAT Council:**

- 1. Write to Transport for NSW and the developers of the former Balmain Leagues Club site requesting the carpark on Waterloo Street be reopened to residents;**
- 2. Write to the Transport Minister requesting clarification about whether the NSW Government intends to compulsorily acquire the former Balmain Leagues Club site for the proposed Western Harbour Tunnel project;**
- 3. Write to the Transport Minister requesting the NSW Government provides suitable accommodation to all Inner West residents who have been adversely affected by WestConnex and Sydney Metro construction works during lockdown.**
- 4. Write to the Transport Minister seeking clear criteria for when residents affected by construction impacts from State Government projects will be offered respite accommodation during the lockdown and request that accommodation sourced through Airbnb be included as an option for residents.**

**Motion Carried**

**For Motion:** Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis and Steer

**Against Motion:** Nil

Councillor Passas left the Meeting at 7:54 pm.

**C0821(4) Item 28      Mayoral Minute: Compliance Levies**

**Motion: (Byrne)**

**THAT Council:**

- 1. Seeks the repeal of the NSW Government's Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Compliance Fees) Regulation 2021 legislation;**
- 2. Notes the estimated budgetary impact on Council of \$1.2 million in the current financial year;**
- 3. Notes that Council has been collecting levies from all development applications with a cost of works of over \$100K, as per Councils fees and charges;**
- 4. Writes to the Planning Minister and all State MPs calling on the NSW Government to reinstate Council's ability to collect and retain compliance levies after 31 December 2021; and**
- 5. Agrees to contribute to the open letter proposed by the City of Sydney and Local Government NSW articulating the local government sector's opposition to the proposal to be funded from Council's communications budget (See Attachment 2).**

**Motion Carried**

**For Motion:** Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis and Steer

**Against Motion:** Nil

**C0821(4) Item 30 Mayoral Minute: Afghanistan Support**

**Motion: (Byrne)**

**THAT Council:**

1. Notes the correspondence from the Refugee Council of Australia to the Refugee Welcome Zone Councils calling on them to support urgent advocacy on Afghanistan;
2. Supports the practical steps proposed by the Refugee Council of Australia;
3. Signs the Refugee Council of Australia's letter to federal parliamentarians about Australia's response to the crisis in Afghanistan; and
4. Forward the letter to all of our local Federal MPs and seek a response.

**Motion Carried**

**For Motion:** Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis and Steer

**Against Motion:** Nil

Councillor Passas returned to the Meeting at 8:03 pm.

The General Manager advised that Item 26 Marrickville Golf Course Lease has been withdrawn and replaced with Item 27 Marrickville Golf Course Lease.

**Procedural motion - Suspension of Standing Orders**

**Motion: (Drury/Hesse)**

**THAT Council deal with Item 2 Marrickville Parklands and Golf Course- Adoption of Park Plan of Management and then suspend standing orders to deal with Item 27 Marrickville Golf Course Lease at this time.**

**Motion Carried**

**For Motion:** Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis and Steer

**Against Motion:** Nil

**C0821(4) Item 2      Marrickville Parklands and Golf Course- Adoption of Park Plan of Management**

**Motion: (Drury/Macri)**

**THAT:**

1. **Council adopt the Marrickville Parkland and Golf Course Plan of Management (PoM) and Master Plan subject to the following amendments:**
  - a) **On page 55 of the PoM remove reference to “Provide a concrete shared path from the Greenway at Ewen Park to Cooks River Cycleway at HJ Mahony Reserve”;**
  - b) **On page 64 of PoM replace at recommendations for “Improve tree planting and increase the urban forest” the word “should” to “must.” Similarly in the same paragraph replace “Should” with “must”. At point b) replace “a commitment to” with “must implement”;**
  - c) **On page 81 of the PoM remove reference to the “proposed shared Riverside Pathway.”; and**
  - d) **On page 83 of the PoM remove reference to the “proposed shared Riverside Pathway.”**
2. **Council note the key changes highlighted in this report which have been made to the Plan of Management and Master Plan for the Marrickville Parklands;**
3. **Council note the key challenges and cost impacts in building a bridge from the Marrickville Parklands to Gough Whitlam Park; and**
4. **In managing the future success of a restored biodiversity habitat at the Dibble Avenue Water Hole, Council permit the Marrickville Golf Sporting and Community Club, to undertake water extraction for the purpose of irrigation at a fixed level between the outflow pipe level (RL 1.25mAHD) and the fixed stabilisation level of RL 0.8mAHD. This allowance is to be documented in any future license agreement with the Marrickville Golf Sporting and Community Club.**

**Motion Carried**

**For Motion:**                      Crs Byrne, Drury, Iskandar, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Raciti and Stamolis

**Against Motion:**                Crs Da Cruz, Hesse, Kiat, Lockie, Porteous and Steer

\*\*Councillor Kiat left the Meeting at 9:18 pm prior to the Councillors Da Cruz/Porteous amendment on item 27. As voting for amendments occur prior to the primary motion, Councillor Kiat returned prior to the primary motion be voted on.

Councillor Kiat returned to the Meeting at 9:22 pm.

**C0821(4) Item 27 Marrickville Golf Course Lease**

**Motion: (Drury/Passas)**

**THAT:**

1. Council note the resolution of 22 September 2020 providing in principle support to enter into a 21 year lease with Marrickville Golf, Sporting and Community Club Limited;
2. Council note the objections received in respect of the proposed lease and endorse the position in response to those objections set out in this report;
3. Subject to Council adopting the Marrickville Parklands and Golf Course Plan of Management, Council apply to the Minister for Local Government in accordance with Sections 47(5) – (9) of the Local Government Act 1993 for consent to grant the proposed lease referred to in item 4 of this recommendation, noting the objections received to the lease;
4. Subject to the consent of the Minister for Local Government, Council enter into a lease as Crown Land Manager of Riverside Park Reserve R.83765 and owner of land parcels forming part of the golf course at Wharf Street Marrickville for a term of 21 years and authority be delegated to Council’s General Manager to negotiate, execute and administer the lease contained in Confidential Attachment 1;
5. Amend the paragraph in the lease referring to “Tree management and removal” as follows: replace the word “should” with the word “will” so the sentence reads “Any trees identified as being in poor health, defective or an unacceptable level of risk will be reported to Council immediately.”

**Motion Tied**

**For Motion:** Crs Byrne, Drury, Iskandar, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas and Raciti

**Against Motion:** Crs Da Cruz, Hesse, Kiat, Lockie, Porteous, Stamolis and Steer

The Chairperson used his Casting Vote for the **MOTION** and the **MOTION** was carried.

**Amendment (Hesse/Steer)**

**THAT Council amend term of lease to Seven (7) years.**

**Motion Tied**

**For Motion:** Crs Da Cruz, Hesse, Kiat, Lockie, Porteous, Stamolis and Steer

**Against Motion:** Crs Byrne, Drury, Iskandar, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas and Raciti

The Chairperson used his Casting Vote against the **MOTION** and the **MOTION** was lost.

\*\*Councillor Kiat left the Meeting at 9:18 pm prior to the Councillors Da Cruz/Porteous amendment on item 27. As voting for amendments occur prior to the primary motion, Councillor Kiat returned prior to the primary motion be voted on.

**Amendment (Da Cruz/Porteous)**

**THAT** noting the 50% Accommodation discount requested by the club, that the LEASE be amended to include Public Access to fairways 10, 11 and 16 (excluding greens) for passive recreation, including bush care, every Sunday afternoon.

**Motion Lost**

**For Motion:** Crs Da Cruz, Hesse, Porteous and Steer

**Against Motion:** Crs Byrne, Drury, Iskandar, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Raciti and Stamolis

**Absent:** Cr Kiat

**ADJOURNMENT**

9.29pm - The Mayor, Clr Byrne adjourned the meeting for a short recess.

9.41pm– The Mayor, Clr Byrne resumed the meeting.

**C0821(4) Item 3 King George Park-Priority Community Improvement Project**

**Motion: (Byrne/Porteous)**

**THAT:**

1. Council financially commit the compensation funding which has been received from Transport for NSW (WestConnex) towards the detailed design and delivery of:
  - a) Priority 1-King George Park Car Park Safety Improvement project; and
  - b) Priority 2- the refurbishment and upgrade of Constellation Playground.
2. Council’s Traffic Committee receive a report and determine future regulatory restrictions associated with long stay parking issues once a design for the new King George Park car park is completed;
3. Council note that the priority action projects will be delivered in Quarter 2 of the 2022 financial year;
4. Dedicate \$800,000 of the compensation funds to sporting facility improvements at King George Park. This is to be combined with the funds already dedicated to the refurbishment of the ground scheduled for 2022 with a final list of works to be reported to Council following consultation with the ground users. Consideration should be given to providing storage, extension and resurfacing of long jump runways, improved lighting and provision of a scoreboard.
5. Council call on the NSW Government to conduct an assessment and to fund and deliver the resheeting and renewal of the all the footpaths and roads that have been damaged in the precinct as a result of by heavy vehicle movements due to WestConnex construction.
6. Council to conduct community consultation including the Sporting Clubs on the car park and the playground.

**Motion Carried**

**For Motion:** Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis and Steer

**Against Motion:** Nil

Councillor Passas left the Meeting at 9:48 pm.

**C0821(4) Item 4 Councillor Representation on Committees**

**Motion: (McKenna OAM/Lockie)**

**THAT Council:**

1. **Extend the existing representatives on Council and External Committees to the end of term current of Council; and**
2. **Extend the existing representatives on the Sydney Eastern City Planning Panel until 28 February 2022.**

**Motion Carried**

**For Motion:** Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis and Steer

**Against Motion:** Nil

**C0821(4) Item 5 Arlington Recreation Reserve-Addressing Complaints from Members of the Public**

**Motion: (Drury/McKenna OAM)**

**THAT Council:**

1. **Note the report and the requirements which Council Officers adhere to in managing complaints as pursuant to Council's adopted Complaints Handling Policy; and**
2. **Note that a total of 31 complaints have been received in a three-year period in relation to Council's management of Arlington Reserve.**

**Motion Carried**

**For Motion:** Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis and Steer

**Against Motion:** Nil

**Absent:** Cr Passas

Councillor Passas returned to the Meeting at 10:00 pm.

**C0821(4) Item 6 Community satisfaction survey - 2021**

**Motion: (McKenna OAM/Drury)**

**THAT Council receive and note the report.**

**Motion Carried**

**For Motion:** Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis and Steer

**Against Motion:** Nil

**C0821(4) Item 7 Deamalgamation Cost Benefit Report**

**Motion: (Byrne/Drury)**

**THAT Council:**

- 1. Place the cost benefit report and the resolved de-amalgamation poll question on public exhibition, in keeping with the community engagement policy, with the outcomes of the consultation to be reported to the second Ordinary Council meeting in September; and**
- 2. Include in the de-amalgamation report consultation the following possible additional poll questions and following consultation consider whether to also put these questions to the community at the December 4 election:**
  - a) Do you support the NSW Government guaranteeing the full costs of any de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council to restore the former local government areas of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville?**
  - b) Do you support the direct election of the position of Mayor by citizens rather than the Mayor being elected by Councillors?**

**Motion Lost**

**For Motion:** Crs Byrne, Drury, Iskandar and McKenna OAM

**Against Motion:** Crs Da Cruz, Hesse, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis and Steer

**Foreshadowed Motion (Stamolis/Steer)**

**THAT:**

- 1. Council place the cost benefit report and the resolved de-amalgamation poll question on public exhibition, in keeping with the community engagement policy, with the outcomes of the consultation to be reported to the second Ordinary Council meeting in September;**
- 2. YES and NO cases on de-amalgamation be included on Council's website, E-news, Flyers and the Inner West Council Newsletter;**
- 3. Both YES and NO cases be translated into several languages;**
- 4. Both the YES and NO cases be brought back to Council for approval after endorsement from the NSW Electoral Commission;**
- 5. Council make clear to the community the caveats and limitations of the Morrison Low Report as they have identified in their report; and**
- 6. The case for demerger references the statement in the legislation that State Government will fund the demerger.**

**Motion Carried**

**For Motion:** Crs Da Cruz, Hesse, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis and Steer

**Against Motion:** Crs Byrne, Drury, Iskandar and McKenna OAM

**Amendment (McKenna OAM/Drury)**

**THAT point 5 of the foreshadowed motion be deleted.**

**Motion Lost**

**For Motion:** Crs Byrne, Drury, Iskandar and McKenna OAM

**Against Motion:** Crs Da Cruz, Hesse, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis and Steer

**Procedural motion - Extension of Time**

**Motion: (Lockie/Hesse)**

**THAT the meeting be extended until 11.10pm.**

**Motion Carried**

**For Motion:** Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis and Steer

**Against Motion:** Nil

The Mayor issued a warning at 11.09pm to Councillor Passas for continuously interjecting.

**Procedural motion - Extension of Time**

**Motion: (Byrne/Drury)**

**THAT the meeting be extended until 11.15pm.**

**Motion Carried**

**For Motion:** Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis and Steer

**Against Motion:** Nil

The Mayor issued a second warning at 11.15pm to Councillor Passas for continuously interjecting.

Councillor Passas retired from the Meeting at 11:16 pm.

**C0821(4) Item 8 COVID-19 Financial Support**

**Motion: (Byrne/McKenna OAM)**

**THAT Council:**

- 1. Endorse the redistribution of a portion of Council's annual Community Wellbeing grant funding by allocating \$25,000 to Addison Road Food Pantry and \$25,000 to Bill Crews Exodus Foundation to support the increased demand for food insecurity for families in the Inner West;**
- 2. Support the redeployment of IWC staff where appropriate, to assist the work of local agencies;**
- 3. Support the redistribution of \$20,000 from the Targeted Early Intervention funding from Department of Communities and Justice, in keeping with guidelines to key services, working with vulnerable families and young people in the outreach and early intervention areas;**

4. Notes Council Officer and Office of Local Government advice that financial assistance can be provided to ratepayers under s356 of the Local Government Act 1993;
5. Note that COVID-19 has had a significant impact on Council's budget with \$13.8M in 2020/21 and the forecast impact for 2021/22 could be as high as \$11.7M;
6. Council's response be reviewed should further impacts arise;
7. Provides financial assistance, up to \$400, to residential ratepayers who qualify for the Commonwealth or State COVID-19 Disaster Payments;
8. Limit the assistance to owner-occupiers, to be claimed for one dwelling only, with total expenditure to be initially capped at \$250 000, to be funded from consolidated revenue and considered in the next quarterly budget review;
9. Officers develop hardship criteria to allow applicants who have suffered the greatest disadvantage to be prioritised through the application process;
10. Places the proposal on public exhibition for 28 days;
11. Provide a mechanism for ratepayers to register or apply for the program immediately while the policy is on public exhibition;
12. Reviews this financial assistance package after two months with a report to be tabled at an ordinary Council meeting; and
13. Receive a report to the next Council meeting addressing how up to \$250,000 can be targeted to those most in need in our community eg through expanding Council's own social programs, or via grants to community organizations such as Addison Road and Exodus Foundation.

**Motion Carried**

**For Motion:** Crs Byrne, Drury, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Raciti and Stamolis

**Against Motion:** Crs Da Cruz, Hesse, Porteous and Steer

**Absent:** Cr Passas

**Foreshadowed Motion (Porteous/Hesse)**

**THAT Council:**

1. Endorse the redistribution of a portion of Council's annual Community Wellbeing grant funding by allocating \$25,000 to Addison Road Food Pantry and \$25,000 to Bill Crews Exodus Foundation to support the increased demand for food insecurity for families in the Inner West;
2. Support the redeployment of IWC staff where appropriate, to assist the work of local agencies;
3. Support the redistribution of \$20,000 from the Targeted Early Intervention funding from Department of Communities and Justice, in keeping with guidelines to key services, working with vulnerable families and young people in the outreach and early intervention areas;

4. **Note that since Council’s meeting on the 20 July, the State and Federal Government announced to expand the existing COVID-19 Support measures;**
5. **Note that COVID-19 has had a significant impact on Council’s budget with \$13.8M in 2020/21 and the forecast impact for 2021/22 could be as high as \$11.7M;**
6. **Council’s response be reviewed should further impacts arise.**
7. **Officers develop hardship criteria to allow applicants who have suffered the greatest disadvantage to be prioritised through the application process.**
8. **Receive a report to the next Council meeting addressing how up to \$250k can be targeted to those most in need in our community eg through expanding Council’s own social programs, or via grants to community organizations such as Addison Road and Exodus Foundation.**

This foreshadowed motion lapsed.

**Procedural motion - Extension of Time**

**Motion: (Lockie/Raciti)**

**THAT the meeting be extended until 11.30pm**

**Motion Carried**

**For Motion:** Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis and Steer

**Against Motion:** Nil

**Absent:** Cr Passas

**Procedural motion (Macri/Raciti)**

**THAT items 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25 be deferred to an Extraordinary Council meeting to be held on Tuesday, 31 August 2021.**

**Motion Lost**

**For Motion:** Crs Macri, Raciti and Stamolis

**Against Motion:** Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, McKenna OAM, Porteous and Steer

**Absent** Cr Passas

**Foreshadowed Procedural motion (Lockie/Drury)**

**THAT items 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25 be deferred to an Extraordinary Council meeting to be held on Tuesday, 7 September 2021.**

**Motion Carried**

**For Motion:** Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Iskandar, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis and Steer

**Against Motion:** Cr Kiat

**Absent** Cr Passas

Meeting closed at 11.30pm.

**PUBLIC SPEAKERS:**

<b>Item #</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Suburb</b>
<b>Item 2:</b>	Andrew Tighe	Marrickville
	Kylie Moulds	Petersham
	Peter Munro	Marrickville
	Martin Puchert	Dulwich Hill
	Nicole Huber-Smith	Marrickville
<b>Item 7:</b>	Pip Hinman	Newtown
<b>Item 22:</b>	Jack Whitney	Leichhardt
	Katherine Hudson	Marrickville
	Tim Bradshaw	Dulwich Hill
	Melinda Dimitriades	Lilyfield
<b>Item 27:</b>	Raymond Fowke	Marrickville
	Brenda Padgett	Marrickville

Unconfirmed minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held on 24 August 2021.

**Minutes of Extraordinary Council Meeting held remotely and livestreamed on  
Council's website on 24 August 2021**

**Meeting commenced at 5.30pm**

**Present:**

Darcy Byrne	Mayor
Victor Macri	Deputy Mayor
Marghanita Da Cruz	Councillor (5:32pm)
Mark Drury	Councillor
Lucille McKenna OAM	Councillor
Colin Hesse	Councillor
Sam Iskandar	Councillor
Tom Kiat	Councillor
Pauline Lockie	Councillor
Julie Passas	Councillor
Rochelle Porteous	Councillor
Vittoria Raciti	Councillor
John Stamolis	Councillor
Louise Steer	Councillor
Peter Gainsford	General Manager
Graeme Palmer	Acting Director Development and Recreation
Cathy Edwards-Davis	Director Infrastructure
Caroline McLeod	Acting Director City Living
Peter Livanes	Acting Director Corporate
Katherine Paixao	Acting Manager Governance
Carmelina Giannini	Acting Governance Coordinator

**APOLOGIES:** Nil

**DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS:** Nil

Councillor Da Cruz entered the meeting at 5.32pm

Councillor Kiat left the Meeting at 5:50 pm.

Councillor Iskandar retired from the Meeting at 5:50 pm.

**C0821(2) Item 1      Mayoral Minute: Vaccinating Council Staff and Opening Walk-In  
Vaccination Clinics**

**Motion: (Byrne)**

**THAT Council:**

- 1. Note the increase in COVID-19 infections in the Inner West local government area and the NSW Government's public health advice that urgently increasing vaccination rates is necessary to combat the spread of the virus;**
- 2. Seek to open a vaccination clinic immediately for Council staff, to be administer on Council premises, making use of local pharmacists and / or general practitioners who have been approved to administer vaccinations in workplaces;**
- 3. Reissue our urgent request to the NSW Government to open walk-in vaccination**

clinics in the Inner West Local Government Area;

4. **Seek the guidance and approval of NSW Health in making Council’s town halls and depots available immediately to local pharmacists and general practitioners to administer walk-in vaccination clinics for the community; and**
5. **Request that the Federal Government make the Australian Defence Force available to administer vaccination hubs in the Inner West rather than being deployed to police citizens in relation to compliance with health orders.**

**Motion Carried**

**For Motion:** Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis and Steer

**Against Motion:** Nil

**Absent:** Crs Iskandar and Kiat

**APOLOGIES:**

**Motion: (Byrne/Drury)**

**THAT apologies from Councillor York be accepted.**

**Motion Carried**

**For Motion:** Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis and Steer

**Against Motion:** Nil

**Absent:** Crs Iskandar and Kiat

Councillor Kiat returned to the Meeting at 5:56 pm.

**C0821(2) Item 2 Notice of Motion: Disruption Caused by Election Delay**

**Motion: (McKenna OAM/Drury)**

**THAT Council notes the concerns reported in the Sydney Morning Herald on August 3 that the requirement for Councils to conduct Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral elections in September, for terms concluding at the December 4 local government elections, risks disrupting Councils services and distracting Councillors from the crucial tasks of supporting residents to get through the lockdown and promoting vaccination in the community.**

**Motion Lost**

**For Motion:** Crs Byrne, Drury and McKenna OAM

**Against Motion:** Crs Da Cruz, Hesse, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis and Steer

**Absent:** Cr Iskandar

Meeting closed at 5.57pm.

Unconfirmed minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 24 August 2021.

**Minutes of Extraordinary Council Meeting held remotely and livestreamed on  
Council's website on 24 August 2021**

**Meeting commenced at 6.00pm**

**Present:**

Darcy Byrne	Mayor
Victor Macri	Deputy Mayor
Marghanita Da Cruz	Councillor
Mark Drury	Councillor
Lucille McKenna OAM	Councillor
Colin Hesse	Councillor
Tom Kiat	Councillor
Pauline Lockie	Councillor
Julie Passas	Councillor
Rochelle Porteous	Councillor
Vittoria Raciti	Councillor
John Stamolis	Councillor
Louise Steer	Councillor
Peter Gainsford	General Manager
Graeme Palmer	Acting Director Development and Recreation
Cathy Edwards-Davis	Director Infrastructure
Caroline McLeod	Acting Director City Living
Peter Livanes	Acting Director Corporate
Katherine Paixao	Acting Manager Governance
Carmelina Giannini	Acting Governance Coordinator

**APOLOGIES:**

**Motion: (Byrne/Drury)**

THAT apologies from Councillor York be accepted.

**Motion Carried**

**For Motion:** Crs Byrne, Da Cruz, Drury, Hesse, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis and Steer

**Against Motion:** Nil

**DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS:** Nil

**C0821(3) Item 1 Notice of Motion: Date for Mayoral Election**

**Motion: (Stamolis/Passas)**

**THAT Councillors set the date for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor Election being Tuesday, 7 September 2021.**

**Motion Carried**

**For Motion:** Crs Da Cruz, Hesse, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, Passas, Porteous, Raciti, Stamolis and Steer

**Against Motion:** Crs Byrne, Drury and McKenna OAM

Meeting closed at 6.09pm.

**Item No:** C0921(2) Item 1  
**Subject:** CONDOLENCE MOTION: VALE BARBARA HALAN  
**From:** Councillor Marghanita Da Cruz

**MOTION:**

**THAT Council writes to Barbara's friends and colleagues at Articulate offering our condolences on her passing.**

**Background**

Barbara Halnan described herself as an artist, painter, and installation artist; and her interests as art, music and reading

Barbara was all that and much more and for many she was also a friend and colleague.

Barbara played an important role in Articulate's decade as an artist-run space and was there as a participant, volunteer and exhibitor and a place she regularly visited for exhibitions and openings by friends and fellow artists. Barbara was an essential part of the Articulate community, along with her colleague and partner Rose McGreevy [1945-2014].

As an artist Barbara was knowledgeable, unpretentious, friendly, self-sufficient, reliable and hard-working. She went about her business with determination and when she set her mind on something she needed no prompts to achieve it.

Barbara made an impression on everyone who met her and she will be sadly missed by those associated with Articulate.

**In memory of Barbara Halnan**

In 2022, Articulate will hold a survey exhibition of Barbara's work to celebrate her memory and her part in Articulate's history, as well as her place in Australian art that is reflected by her work. It will be held concurrently with an exhibition in Paris by her colleagues there and it will be live-streamed to coincide with the exhibition in Sydney.

The exhibition is being organised by William Seeto, a friend and colleague of Barbara's. He is interested in locating artworks by Barbara in the possession of others and would appreciate your assistance if you have any. If you can help, he can be reached via email [bmseeto@gmail.com](mailto:bmseeto@gmail.com)



*"Opening of Confluence 3", The Shop Gallery, 2016. Photo: W.Seeto*

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**Item No:** C0921(2) Item 2

**Subject:** LOCAL GOVERNMENT NSW BOARD ELECTION AND ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021

**Prepared By:** Katherine Paixao - Acting Governance Manager

**Authorised By:** Peter Livanes - Acting Director Corporate

## RECOMMENDATION

1. Determine the 9 voting delegates for LGNSW Board Election;
2. Nominate Councillors to attend the 2021 Local Government NSW Online Annual Conference (29 November 2021);
3. Determine the 9 voting delegates for the 2021 Local Government NSW Online Annual Conference (29 November 2021).

## DISCUSSION

Due to the postponement of local government elections in NSW the annual LGNSW conference for 2021 has been split into two components:

- A one-hour **Annual Conference** to present the LGNSW annual report and financial reports, which will be conducted online from 9.30am on Monday 29 November 2021; and
- A **Special Conference** – including the debate and resolution of motions setting the advocacy agenda for 2022 - to be held in-person at the Hyatt Regency Sydney from Monday 28 February to Wednesday 2 March 2022.

Details currently available on the Conference and its conduct can be found on the LGNSW's website.

Separate registrations for both the Annual Conference and Special Conference are required to allow for potential attendance changes brought about by the local government election.

Motions will now be debated and resolved at LGNSW's Special Conference (Monday 28 February - Wednesday 2 March 2022). The deadline for accepting motions for inclusion in the Special Conference business paper has been extended to midnight on Sunday 30 January 2022.

The annual conference in November 2021 is online free to member councils.

### LGNSW Board Election

The Australian Electoral Commission has given formal notice that nominations for the LGNSW Board Elections open on 7 September 2021 and close at 12pm on 5 October 2021. The letter can be found in Attachment 1.

Due to Covid-19, the ballot will be conducted by post. Postal voting for the LGNSW Board Election opens on 27 October 2021 and close at 10am 24 November 2021.

Separate from Conference registration, members must advise LGNSW of the names of their nominated voting delegates for the Board Election by 5pm on 5 October 2021.

Voting Delegates

Inner West Council has been assigned nine voting delegates for the LGNSW Annual Conference, Board Election and special conference.

LGNSW need to be advised of Council's voting delegates for the Annual Conference and Board Election by 5 October 2021.

Given the timing of the Special Conference, it is appropriate that matters of nomination, approval of delegates and the nomination of any Motions to the Special Conference, be deferred for further report to the first meeting of the new Council following the 4 December 2021 Council election.

Motions for the Special Conference

Motions may be submitted for debate at the Conference that meet the criteria shown below. The deadline for submission of motions has been extended until Sunday 30 January 2022. LGNSW have advised that in order to be considered for the Conference, motions must meet the criteria shown below and be different to motions raised at previous Conferences. A copy of the decisions from the 2020 Conference is shown attached as Attachment 2.

The LGNSW Board has resolved that motions will be included in the Business Paper for the Conference only where they:

1. are consistent with the objects of the Association (see Rule 4 of the Association's rules);
2. relate to Local Government in NSW and/or across Australia;
3. concern or are likely to concern Local Government as a sector;
4. seek to advance the Local Government policy agenda of the Association and/or improve governance of the Association;
5. have a lawful purpose (a motion does not have a lawful purpose if its implementation would require or encourage non-compliance with prevailing laws);
6. are clearly worded and unambiguous in nature; and
7. do not express preference for one or several members over one or several other members.

Councillors are encouraged to review Action Reports from previous Conference(s) before submitting motions for this year's Annual Conference to ensure the proposed motion wording reflects any recent developments and does not duplicate existing positions.

Reasons for a motion to be excluded

Please note the Board will not include motions in the Business Paper which do not advance the local government policy agenda. Therefore, a motion will not be included if it is operational, rather than strategic; not local government business; focused on a local issue only or if the motion is consistent with longstanding actions of LGNSW and the Local Government and Shire's Association.

Further, for a motion to be included in the Conference Business Paper the submitting member needs to provide accompanying evidence of its support for the motion. Such evidence may include an extract of the minutes of the meeting at which the member resolved to submit the motion for consideration by the Conference.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Registration costs for the special conference will be funded from the Councillors budget.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. [↓](#) Letter from Australian Electoral Commission regarding LGNSW Board Election
2. [↓](#) Record of Decisions of 2020 LGNSW Annual Conference



Reference: ANCFH 2021/2809

██████████  
Senior Manager Workplace Relations  
Local Government NSW

██████████  
██████████

Dear ██████████

**Local Government NSW  
Scheduled Election  
E2021/98**

The Registered Organisations Commission has made arrangements with the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) under Section 189 of the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009 (the Act)* to conduct the above election.

**Timetable**

The timetable for the election will be:

Date	Occurrence
31/08/2021	Close of Roll
01/09/2021	List of eligible members delivered to Returning Officer
07/09/2021	Returning Officer publishes Election Notice and Nomination Form via AEC website
07/09/2021	Organisation publishes Election Notice and Nomination Form via Organisation journal
07/09/2021	Nominations Open
05/10/2021	Nominations Close at 12:00pm (Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT))
12/10/2021	Nomination withdrawal period closes at 12:00pm (Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT))
12/10/2021	Organisation to provide details of the nominated voting delegates by 12:00 noon (Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT))
12/10/2021	Member to submit the absentee voting form by 12:00 noon (Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT)) to the Returning Officer.
27/10/2021	Postal Ballot Opens
24/11/2021	Postal Ballot Closes at 10:00am (Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT))

### Notification to Members

The Association is required to have the Election Notice and Nomination Form published via their Journal from 7/09/2021 until 24/11/2021 and posted to each Ordinary member council. Please confirm with the Returning Officer when this action has been done.

The copy of the Election Notice and Nomination Form will be sent soon.

### Application of Section 193 Powers

The matters in which I have exercised the authority given to me by s.193 of the Act are:

- Due to Covid-19, the ballot cannot be conducted by attendance at the annual meeting of the federal council in accordance with the requirements of Schedule B of the rules of the Organisation. The Returning Officer will conduct the ballot by post in accordance with the requirements of the Schedule C of the rules of the Organisation.
- Rule in regard to the absentee voting according to Schedule C- 16 is not clear. To allow absentee voting, the Returning Officer will advise the members that if they are away from their current address and unable to receive ballot materials, they need to complete the Absentee application form with an alternate address and return it to the Returning Officer by email or AEC portal by a certain date.
- Rule 23 of Schedule C mentions to declare the result of the ballot within 3 days after the closing date of the voting. Due to Covid-19 and lockdown issue, the Returning Officer is not in a position to confirm the declaration period and will try to declare the result as soon as possible after the completion of the ballot counting.

### Request to supply Register of Members Information

The Roll of Voters for the above election will be those Ordinary members of the Organisation financial as at 31/08/2021 (the date the roll of voters closes) and as at 01/03/2021 (the "calculation date").

As the Returning Officer, I request you supply the following listing(s) of members of the Local Government NSW and their delegates by the dates that are specified:

Listing	Date Required
(a) Name and member information (identified below), of every member who was financial at 31/08/2021 (the date the roll of voters closes) and as at 01/03/2021 (the "calculation date") in accordance with the rules of the Organisation	01/09/2021
(b) Update(s) listing members who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. were inadvertently included on a listing</li> <li>ii. were inadvertently omitted from a listing who are eligible</li> <li>iii. have changed name, address or any other personal details</li> <li>iv. have changed electorate/s</li> </ul> <b>PLEASE NOTE:</b> any deletions [b (i)], additions [b (ii)] or electorate changes [b (iv)] must be updates to the roll as at 31/08/2021. Updates which occur after this date cannot be accepted and so, should not be provided, except where they are changes relating to b (iii) above.	06/10/2021

(c) The names of the voting delegates and Board of Directors related to membership names and council types (Metro/urban or Rural/Regional)	12/10/2021
(d) The names of members appearing on a listing who have ceased to be members by 27/10/2021.	26/10/2021

**Electronic listings**

Organisations are requested to submit data and documents electronically via the AEC Electoral Event Portal. A link to the portal can be found on the AEC website ([www.aec.gov.au](http://www.aec.gov.au)) under Elections, Industrial elections and ballots.

The List of Members is to be supplied as an Excel file.

Lists should not be emailed as Commonwealth Guidelines provide that classified information, including personal information, should not be transmitted by email.

**Member Information**

Name and member information (identified below) of every member, eligible to be included in the electorate/s for the election, who was financial at 31/08/2021 (the date the roll of voters closes) and as at 01/03/2021 (the "calculation date") in accordance with the rules of the Organisation.

A record for each eligible member/ voting delegate/ board of directors is to include the following information in separate fields as per the various dates in the above time table:

- Membership number,
- Voting delegates and Board of Directors surname,
- Voting delegates and Board of Directors (full) first name/s,
- Address line 1 (BUILDING NAME AND UNIT/FLAT/TOWNHOUSE NUMBER),
- Address line 2 (STREET ADDRESS OR PO BOX),
- Address line 3 (CITY/TOWN),
- STATE (Aust Post Abbrev),
- Postcode,
- COUNTRY (OUTSIDE AUST ONLY)
- Electorate Code (see below)
- "Incorrect last known address" code (see below)
- "Workplace Address" Code (see below)

**Electorate code**

For each member listed, include a field identifying the relevant Electorate and provide an explanatory table for the codes. As for example, electorate code for Metro/Urban as M/U and electorate code for Rural/Regional as R/R.

**Incorrect last known address**

Please include in the listing(s) a field for "Incorrect Last Known Address". If you have eligible members with a last known address thought to be incorrect, you should code those members as "Y" or "Yes" in this field.

**Workplace addresses**

Please include in the listing(s) a field for "Workplace Address". If you have eligible members with only a workplace address, you should code those members as "Y" or "Yes" in this field – otherwise, leave the field blank.

**Certification of Lists**

Each listing must be accompanied by a certificate signed by you in the following terms:

"I certify that the accompanying listing contains the (include appropriate details, as per the text in (a), (b), (c), or (d) above). I further declare that the register of members has been maintained as required by Section 230(2) of the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009.

The total number of eligible members listed is [include number] at 31/08/2021."

The listings and certificates as described above must be supplied to me by NO LATER THAN 12:00pm on the date(s) specified.

**Confidentiality of Information**

Regulation 131 of the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Regulations 2009* (the Regulations) requires that the Returning Officer must make a copy of the roll available for inspection and copying by members, and other persons authorised by the Returning Officer. However, sub-regulation 6 provides:

*(6) If a copy of a roll, or a copy of part of a roll, is made or supplied under this regulation, a person must not use information in the roll for a purpose other than:*

- (a) a purpose in connection with the election; or*
- (b) to monitor the accuracy of the information contained in the roll.*

*Penalty: 10 penalty units.*

**Other Legislative Provisions**

I wish to draw your attention to the following:

- Regulation 145 of the Regulation which provides that, where an election or ballot is conducted by the AEC, no steps in the election may be taken by any person without the Returning Officer's authority or direction.
- Section 190 is an offence provision of the Act and a contravention of it constitutes an irregularity. Section 190 of the Act states:

*An organisation or branch commits an offence if it uses, or allows to be used, its property or resources to help a candidate against another candidate in an election under this Part for an office or other position.*

*Maximum penalty: 100 penalty units.*

If you have any queries or concerns regarding any of the above please do not hesitate to contact me on IEBEvents@aec.gov.au or 02 9375 6331.

Yours sincerely

Ishtiaq Ahmed  
Returning Officer  
Australian Electoral Commission  
12/08/2021

P 02 9375 6331 F	<a href="http://www.aec.gov.au">www.aec.gov.au</a>
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## LGNSW Annual Conference 2020

### Record of Decisions

Decisions of motions considered by Conference .....	1
Decisions of motions referred to the Board for consideration .....	21

#### Decisions of motions considered by Conference

<b>F1 LGNSW Board</b>	<b>Standing Orders</b>
That the Standing Orders as set out in the preceding pages be adopted.	

**Decision: Carried**

<b>F2 LGNSW Board</b>	<b>Constitution</b>
That Local Government NSW, being a registered organisation under the <i>Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009</i> (Cth) (the " <b>Association</b> ");	
1. Amend the Association's rules in the terms proposed below.	
2. In furtherance of 1 above, make application to the Fair Work Commission to amend the Association's rules.	

**Decision: Carried**

#### Association business

<b>1 LGNSW Board</b>	<b>Standing Orders</b>
That the Standing Orders as set out in the preceding pages be adopted.	

**Decision: Carried**

<b>2 LGNSW Board</b>	<b>LGNSW Fundamental Principles</b>
That the LGNSW Fundamental Principles, as set out below, be endorsed:	
<b>Economic</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A - Local government must have control of its revenue raising and investment decisions and be fairly funded by the Commonwealth and State/NSW Governments to meet its infrastructure and service responsibilities.</li> <li>B - Local government promotes local and regional economic development and employment growth.</li> </ul>	
<b>Infrastructure</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>C - Local government is best placed to plan for, deliver and manage essential local infrastructure.</li> </ul>	
<b>Planning</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>D - Local government is best placed to lead and influence local and regional planning processes according to the needs and expectations of local communities</li> <li>E - Our communities' quality of life is a priority of local government planning.</li> </ul>	

## Environment

- F - Local government actions reflect Ecologically Sustainable Development. ESD requires the effective integration of economic, environmental and social considerations in decision making processes and is based on the following principles:
  - Intergenerational equity – today's actions maintain or enhance the environment for future generations
  - Precautionary principle – prevent environmental degradation and manage and mitigate risk
  - Conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity
  - Improved valuation and pricing of environmental resources – recognising the value of the environment to the community

## Social and Community

- G - Local government is committed to the principles of:
  - Equity – fair distribution of resources
  - Rights – equality for all people
  - Access – to services essential to quality of life
  - Participation – of all people in their community
  - Recognition – of the unique place of Aboriginal people in NSW and the right of Aboriginal people to be involved in all decisions affecting Aboriginal communities
  - Health and Safety – for all in the community

## Governance

- H - Local government must be constitutionally recognised and respected as an equal sphere of government
- I - Local government is democratically elected to shape, serve and support communities
- J - Local government is committed to the principles of good governance

## Accountability

- K - Local government is responsible and accountable to the citizens and the communities it represents, through consultative processes, legislative accountabilities, efficient delivery of services and effective customer service
- L - Local government is recognised as a responsible and place-based employer

**Decision: Carried**

### 3 Mosman Municipal Council

### Local Government State Award

That Local Government NSW conducts an independent review of the current arrangements and procedures for negotiating and finalising the Local Government State Award, and any interim or variation to that award, by a suitably experienced consultant such as a former tribunal member, to ensure best practice governance and transparency for its members is achieved.

**Decision: Carried**

### 4 Kyogle Council

### LGNSW Board reform

That:

1. Local Government NSW (LGNSW) explores options for amending the LGNSW Rules (State and Federal) with the objective of:
  - a. Ensuring that the composition of the Board includes an approximately equal number of urban based, regionally based and rurally based representatives; and
  - b. motions debated and passed at LGNSW Annual Conferences are pursued by the Board with priority motions being determined by the number of votes received to establish the political agenda of LGNSW.

- Local Government NSW provides to the 2021 or 2022 LGNSW Annual Conference a report addressing the matters raised in 1 above, and also a motion if the LGNSW Board considers it appropriate.

**Decision: Lost**

**5 Murray River Council** **Future conferences and training online**

That Local Government NSW gives consideration to:

- Future conferences being online or having an online component to enable councillors who cannot travel to participate, and
- Future training offerings for councillors online to enable more councillors to participate in learning and development activities without the inconvenience and cost of travel.

**Decision: Carried**

**National Cabinet**

**6 Newcastle City Council** **Local government exclusion from National Cabinet**

That Local Government NSW:

- Notes with disappointment that local government is not represented on the newly formed National Cabinet and seeks their assistance in requesting that First Ministers review the decision to exclude local government;
- Seeks meetings with the Prime Minister and the Premier to discuss in more detail the importance of having local government representation on National Cabinet and the value of partnerships with councils in achieving the objectives of the National Cabinet and the national reform agenda; and
- Notes that the Australian Local Government Association, Local Government NSW and other state/territory local government associations will continue to advocate for local government representation on the National Cabinet and for local government's interests in all relevant forums.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motions set out in small font)**

**City of Canterbury-Bankstown** **Local government representation on the National Cabinet**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW and Australian Governments to highlight the critical necessity for local government representation on the newly formed National Cabinet, and request that First Ministers review the decision to exclude local government.

**Wollondilly Shire Council** **Local government representation at the National Cabinet table**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the Prime Minister's Office and advocates strongly for the inclusion of a local government representative in the National Cabinet: a representative whose first and foremost consideration is the impact of decisions on councils and the communities they represent.

**Decision: Carried**

**Disaster management, recovery and resilience**

**7 Blayney Shire Council** **Emergency management reform**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW Government, specifically Resilience NSW to transfer responsibility for emergency management to the NSW Government to deliver the following outcomes:

- Decentralisation of emergency management roles to regional NSW providing stronger local knowledge and employment in the regions.
- Improved capacity for resilience and recovery planning with that resource capable to transition directly into leading recovery (instead of local government).

- Significant efficiency gains in the emergency management space with a greater capacity for more on-ground professional emergency management personnel in each local government area or agreed combined areas.
- More consistent emergency management outcomes regardless of the size or capacity of the council (which itself is highly variable).
- Improved strategy and delivery of emergency services infrastructure through integration.
- Improved alignment by allowing local councils and the NSW Police to focus on their core roles.
- Improved facilities, support and training for emergency service volunteers.
- A significant boost to the financial sustainability of all councils in NSW.
- A greater capacity within local councils to develop and implement permanent resilience improvements (e.g. on critical infrastructure).
- Local councils still have a critical role to play in emergency management planning and response through a 'seat at the table', and,
- That the transfer of responsibility includes removal of the \$120 million local government annual contribution to emergency services and the transfer of ownership of Rural Fire Services and State Emergency Services infrastructure from local government to the NSW Government.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motions set out in small font)**

**Coolamon Shire Council**

**Emergency Management Reform**

That Local Government NSW advocates for, and lobbies the NSW Government for a full review of the way emergency management is conducted in NSW. This review must address the way emergency management is to be co-ordinated and funded in a sustainable way.

**Weddin Shire Council**

**New Resilience NSW agency**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to:

1. Clearly outline the role and funding structure for Resilience NSW, and
2. Confirm that councils will not be required to contribute towards the funding requirements of Resilience NSW.

**Greater Hume Council**

**Introduction of a Fire and Emergency Services Levy**

That Local Government NSW makes a case with NSW Government for the introduction of a broad based property levy to fund the Emergency Services Levy as previously proposed.

**Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council**

**Emergency Services Levy**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to:

1. Work with NSW councils to redesign the funding mechanism and implement a broad base property tax to replace the Emergency Services Levy on both local government and insurance policies.
2. Until such time as such a mechanism is introduced any proposed increases to the Emergency Services Levy shall be limited to the annual rate peg percentage increase to local government. Further, any increase greater than the rate peg percentage increase be paid by the NSW Government.

**Weddin Shire Council**

**Emergency Services Levy**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to:

1. Limit yearly increases in the Emergency Services Levy to sustainable levels, and
2. Scrutinise the expenditure of the Rural Fire Service, State Emergency Services and Fire and Rescue NSW to ensure any costs passed onto councils are sustainable and justified.

**Kempsey Shire Council**

**Review of the Fire and Emergency Services Levy**

That Local Government NSW seeks a review of the Fire and Emergency Services Levy due to the disproportionate impact on local government to reduce the impost on local government and local communities with a view to establishing a fairer system in consultation with local councils and Local Government NSW.

**Bellingen Shire Council**

**Fire and Emergency Services Levy**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW Government regarding the disproportionate effect of the Fire and Emergency Services Levy on regional councils, and seeks an urgent review to reduce the impost on local communities to establish a fairer and more equitable system.

**Carrathool Shire Council**

**RFS Emergency Services Levy**

That Local Government NSW continues to lobby the NSW Government to reduce and curtail the excessive increases in the bush fire levy that are impacting on the capacity of council to fund. The levy increases are out of all proportion with NSW

Government constraints on councils ability to raise rate income and should only be increased in line with rate peg percentage increases.

**Fairfield City Council** **Cost shifting of Emergency Services Levy to local government**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to introduce a fairer and more transparent broad based property levy to landowners to cease cost shifting to the Emergency Services Levy to local government.

**Decision: Carried**

**8 Bega Valley Shire Council** **NSW Bushfire Inquiry endorsement**

That Local Government NSW endorses the NSW Government's Bushfire Inquiry Report and urges Resilience NSW to proceed with implementation of the Inquiry's recommendations as a matter of urgency.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motions set out in small font)**

**Snowy Valleys Council** **NSW Bushfire Inquiry**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to ensure that local government is appropriately funded and well placed to implement prevention, response and recovery initiatives resulting from the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Natural Disaster Arrangements and the NSW Bushfire Inquiry.

**Snowy Valleys Council** **Local and State Government bushfire management of Crown Lands**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to partner with councils and commit funding to better plan for bushfire management of Crown Lands, with a particular emphasis on the control of vegetation and weeds (in accordance with the Biosecurity Act 2015) to help mitigate the bushfire risk to community.

**Decision: Carried**

**9 Tenterfield Shire Council** **Cultural burning to facilitate fire management**

That Local Government NSW calls upon the NSW Government to support cultural burning on Crown Lands, National Parks and State Forest held lands in every State of Australia, and the training and employment of indigenous people to carry out this important task.

**Decision: Carried**

**10 Shoalhaven City Council** **Coast and estuary grants funding**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to release the additional unallocated funding from the Coastal and Estuary Grants Program to flood affected local government areas.

**Decision: Carried**

**11 The Hills Shire Council** **Review of the 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Scheme**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to review the 10/50 Vegetation Clearing Scheme to ensure landowners in high-risk areas are able to take steps to prepare themselves for bushfire events.

**Procedural motion** – That motion 11 be put.

**Carried**

**Decision: Lost**

**12 Tenterfield Shire Council Funding increase to drought proof Australia**

That Local Government NSW advocates for the State and Federal Governments to increase funding for pasture research to assist in drought proofing Australia.

**Amendment from Leeton:**

That Local Government NSW advocates for the State and Federal Governments to increase funding for agricultural research, including pasture research to assist in drought proofing Australia.

**Amendment becomes the motion**

**Decision: Carried**

**13 Warren Shire Council Equality of drought and COVID-19 pandemic support**

That Local Government NSW petitions the Federal Government to ensure equality of financial support for drought impacted individuals, families, producers and service providers on the same basis as that being provided to employees, families, the unemployed and business during the Covid-19 pandemic and that the government:

1. Immediately address the inequity that exists between the drought response and that to the COVID-19 crisis.
2. Develop strategies for future droughts that reflect the importance of the regions and that values them accordingly.
3. Focus on primary criteria and actions that relate to loss of income and protecting people in drought when they are most vulnerable.
4. Safeguard and protect our human resources and vital Australian food and fibre production capacity and its security.

**Decision: Carried**

**14 Shoalhaven City Council Asset Protection Zones**

That Local Government NSW requests the NSW Government to carry out the following actions to local government areas in NSW with respect to Asset Protection Zones (APZ):

1. To exempt hazard reduction burns and the construction of asset protection zones, required as a result of a duly adopted standard, from the provisions of the EPCB Act and the NSW Environmental Legislation, internal Government Agency Policies, or any other limitations within other Acts or Regulations which restrict any authorised authority from constructing and maintaining APZs or undertaking hazard reduction burns.
2. Adopt as a general policy that Urban settlements requiring the provision of an APZ at the interface with natural areas, such APZ be at least 200m and to have such APZs managed as Park Lands.
3. To either repeal or create an easement over any section of a National Park where part of the Park falls within a 200m APZ and vest the management of that land in the local council.
4. To enact Legislation to require a private land holder (including Aboriginal Land) to create and maintain a parkland like cleared area of generally 200m to act as an APZ between the subject land and the interface with any urban development requiring the provision of an APZ, where a property owner fails to comply with this requirement an authorised authority may carry out the work and charge the land holder for the works, with the exception of Aboriginal Land where the clearing will remain a cost on the authority.
5. To require any Government Authority who manages forested areas to properly maintain and improve the construction of fire trails, this is to include the removal of any obstructions other than locked gates.
6. To consider the construction of strategic fire breaks through forested areas including National Parks of a similar width to a major electricity easement.

**Amendment from Kempsey:**

That Local Government NSW requests the NSW Government to carry out the following actions to local government areas in NSW with respect to Asset Protection Zones (APZ):

1. To exempt hazard reduction burns and the construction of asset protection zones, required as a result of a duly adopted standard, from the provisions of the EPCB Act and the NSW Environmental Legislation, internal Government Agency Policies, or any other limitations within other Acts or Regulations which restrict any authorised authority from constructing and maintaining APZs or undertaking hazard reduction burns.
2. Adopt as a general policy that Urban settlements requiring the provision of an APZ at the interface with natural areas, such APZ be at least 200m and to have such APZs managed as Park Lands.
3. To enact Legislation to require a private land holder (including Aboriginal Land) to create and maintain a parkland like cleared area of generally 200m to act as an APZ between the subject land and the interface with any urban development requiring the provision of an APZ, where a property owner fails to comply with this requirement an authorised authority may carry out the work and charge the land holder for the works, with the exception of Aboriginal Land where the clearing will remain a cost on the authority.
4. To require any Government Authority who manages forested areas to properly maintain and improve the construction of fire trails, this is to include the removal of any obstructions other than locked gates.
5. To consider the construction of strategic fire breaks through forested areas including National Parks of a similar width to a major electricity easement.

**Amendment becomes the motion**

**Decision: Carried**

**15 Wollondilly Shire Council Service Award for Individual First Responders**

That Local Government NSW advocates for the establishment of a Local Government Service Award for Individual First Responders in the form of a medal or ribbon to be worn on their uniform recognising their conduct or action to protect their community. There is currently no appropriate acknowledgement of first responders at a local government level.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)**

**Blacktown City Council**

**First responders medal**

That Local Government NSW consults relevant Ministers and authorities as appropriate to create a local government medal to be awarded by a local council to Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Services volunteers and first responders, to recognise their service, their sacrifice and their contribution to NSW during natural disasters and other emergencies.

**Procedural motion** – That motion 15 be put  
**Carried**

**Decision: Carried**

**Local government elections**

**16 Georges River Council Protecting democracy at the 2021 local government elections**

That Local Government NSW:

- (a) Calls for the NSW Government to protect local democracy by ensuring councils and communities retain choice in their method of voting to encourage more people to participate in the electoral process.
- (b) Calls for the NSW Government to ensure local government elections are conducted in a manner as similar as possible to State elections to make democratic participation simple for voters and support voter turnout.
- (c) Opposes the introduction of universal postal voting which risks disenfranchising voters through discouraging voter participation and diminishing the status of local government.
- (d) Calls for the NSW Government to fund any increase in the costs of local government elections beyond the rate peg imposed on councils.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motions set out in small font)**

**Broken Hill City Council**

**Universal postal voting for local government elections**

That Local Government NSW strongly oppose the introduction of universal postal voting for future NSW local government elections.

**Lithgow City Council**

**Universal postal voting**

That Local Government NSW writes to the NSW Minister for Local Government expressing strong opposition to the concept of universal postal voting for NSW local government elections.

**Procedural motion** – That motion 16 be put.

**Carried**

**Decision: Carried**

**17 Kempsey Shire Council**

**COVID-19 action utilising universal postal voting**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW Government to permit the usage of universal postal voting for local government elections by the State Electoral Commission and councils, if the safety of electors is at risk due to the possible ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

**Decision: Lost as a result of carried motion 16**

**Point of Order** – quorum check – 253 voting delegates confirmed.

**18 Georges River Council**

**Electronic signatures on Electoral Commission documents**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Electoral Commission and the NSW Government to:

- (a) improve compliance outcomes and ensure accessibility for all members of the community, all existing processes (including forms) for candidates and public office holders be reviewed to ensure that they are simple and easy to understand
- (b) reduce the administrative burden on citizens seeking to be involved in Local Government by amending all relevant legislation and regulations to permit electoral documents, including periodic disclosures, to be signed and lodged electronically.

**Decision: Carried**

**19 Wingecarribee Shire Council**

**Removal of preference voting**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to amend local government electoral legislation, so that councillors are elected on a first past the post basis to remove preference deals.

**Procedural motion** – That motion 19 be put.

**Carried**

**Decision: Lost**

**20 Narrandera Shire Council**

**NSW electorate districts redistribution process**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to undertake a formal review of the redistribution process in NSW, seeking to ensure that regional/rural areas west of the Great Dividing Range are represented adequately into the future.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)**

**Leeton Shire Council**

**Review of NSW electoral district boundaries**

That Local Government NSW advocates for rural and regional state electoral districts to more accurately reflect local government area 'communities of interest' and for larger districts to be reduced in area.

**Decision: Carried**

**Waste and recycling**

**21 City of Canterbury-Bankstown Improving recycling systems in NSW**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW Government to increase the proportion of the waste levy reinvested in recycling and waste management.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motions set out in small font)**

**City of Canterbury-Bankstown Permanent Fund to Address Illegal Dumping**

That Local Government NSW make representations to the NSW Government requesting a permanent and secure funding stream, to be funded from the Waste Levy, for councils to address the growing issue of illegal dumping through ongoing targeted programs of deterrence, enforcement and clean up.

**Blacktown City Council Resourcing for the NSW Circular Economy Policy**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to urgently develop and implement an action plan and funding strategy to support the implementation of its NSW Circular Economy Policy.

**Bourke Shire Council Recycling Services**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to consider the allocation of a subsidy to rural and remote councils to assist them in the establishing and maintaining recycling services within their local government areas.

**Central Coast Council Waste Levy**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to allow councils to retain the full Waste Levy during the current COVID-19 crisis.

**Lismore City Council Waste Levy reinvestment**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to demonstrate how it has invested in recycling industries and ensure a greater share of the S88 POEO Act 1997 NSW Waste Levy is reinvested back into recycling technologies and;

1. Mandates the reduction in front end waste from food packaging;
2. Provides equitable distribution of waste levy funds back to councils in a non-competitive environment
3. Establishes a policy that ensures that monies collected from one or more councils is not used to subsidise revenue positive investments in other councils
4. Mandates closed loop requirements for food manufacturers to manage waste.

**Cessnock City Council Waste Levy to fund landfill rehabilitation costs**

That Local Government NSW calls upon the NSW Government to fund local government investigation, evaluation, the formulation of Remedial Action Plans and the remediation of historic orphan waste management sites through funding allocations from the NSW Waste Levy.

**Blacktown City Council Protecting our ratepayers from the impact of the waste export ban**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to urgently develop and implement a waste and resource recovery infrastructure plan to minimise the impact of the waste export ban on local government.

**Procedural motion** – That covered motion from Federation Council not be considered with motion 21.  
**Carried**

**Amendment from Canterbury-Bankstown**

To support existing LGNSW Policy that 100% NSW Waste Levy should be returned to councils, Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW Government to increase the proportion of the waste levy reinvested in recycling and waste management.

**Amendment becomes the motion**

**Amendment from Cessnock**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW government to increase the proportion of the waste levy re-invested in recycling and waste management. This funding would include but not limited to illegal dumping, the circular economy and the rehabilitation of historic orphan dump sites.

**Amendment becomes the motion**

**Amendment from Canterbury-Bankstown**

To support existing LGNSW Policy that 100% NSW Waste Levy should be returned to councils, Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW Government to increase the proportion of the waste levy reinvested in recycling and waste management. This funding would include but not limited to illegal dumping, the circular economy and the rehabilitation of historic orphan dump sites.

**Amendment becomes the motion**

**Decision: Carried**

**21a Federation Council** **Waste to Energy**

That Local Government NSW requests the NSW Government to more urgently progress concrete actions and strategy to enable projects to develop including a strategic pathway towards funding regional waste management solutions also involving Joint Organisations, and the Federal Government.

**Decision: Carried**

**22 The Hills Shire Council** **Energy from waste**

That Local Government NSW urges the NSW Government to encourage and facilitate private sector investment in Waste to Energy facilities as both a more sustainable alternative to landfill and recognition that the waste stream is too diverse and contaminated to make all but a few products recyclable.

**Procedural motion** – That motion 22 be put.  
**Carried**

**Decision: Lost**

**23 Randwick City Council** **Proposals for incineration of waste in urban Sydney**

That the Conference opposes partnerships between the waste disposal industry and other industries for cogeneration plants (or “Energy Recovery Plants”) similar to the Matraville proposal between Opal Paper Mill and the waste company Suez Group on the grounds that they are essentially repackaged waste incineration plants. In doing so the association notes that emissions from such plants are a health danger to local communities and an obstacle to achieving the infrastructure and circular economy solutions advocated for under clause 12.1.a) of the Waste and Recycling Position Statement of our adopted Local Government NSW Platform Policy.

**Decision: Carried as a result of lost motion 22.**

**Economic stimulus**

**24 Federation Council** **COVID-19 recovery**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to develop a comprehensive COVID-19 recovery package to assist communities and businesses recover from the economic impacts of COVID-19.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)**

**Federation Council** **COVID-19 costs**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to develop, in consultation with Local Government NSW, a reimbursement package for councils who are incurring additional costs as a result of COVID-19 risk measures, including assistance to NSW Police for Border Closures.

**Decision: Carried**

**25 Liverpool City Council Covid-19 impacts and Fit for the Future guidelines**

That the LGNSW Conference:

- i. Notes the collapse in revenues and seek a rates guarantee to ensure financial liquidity, financial assistance to maintain existing employment levels and explicit inclusion of local government in any future stimulus packages;
- ii. Support Local Government NSW's campaign to suspend Fit for the Future (FFF) guidelines given current circumstances, including writing to the Minister for Local Government as appropriate; and
- iii. Note that councils believe FFF targets and benchmarks are now outdated and should be abandoned as councils will be increasingly unable to meet targets and benchmarks during the pandemic.

**Amendment from Liverpool:**

That the LGNSW Conference:

- i. Notes the collapse in revenues and seek a rates guarantee to ensure financial liquidity, financial assistance to maintain existing employment levels and explicit inclusion of local government in any future stimulus packages;
- ii. Support Local Government NSW's campaign to suspend Fit for the Future (FFF) guidelines given current circumstances, including writing to the Minister for Local Government as appropriate; and
- iii. Note that councils believe FFF targets and benchmarks are now outdated and should be reviewed as councils will be increasingly unable to meet targets and benchmarks during the pandemic.

**Amendment becomes the motion**

**Decision: Carried**

**26 Blue Mountains City Council Active Transport Infrastructure**

1. That Local Government NSW advocates to the State and Federal Governments to create clear and dedicated funding programs to support the building of active transport infrastructure, such as footpaths and shared paths/cycleways;
2. That these programs should be considered as part of the economic stimulus packages that are critical in keeping the economy going in response to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the impacts of the Black Summer bushfires; and
3. That this program provides full grant funding rather than 50/50 shared cost arrangements, to enable councils to deliver on their Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plans.

**Decision: Carried**

**27 Goldenfields Water County Council Water County Council grant funding**

That Local Government NSW advocates on behalf of Water County Councils to be included in, and receive an equitable share of grant funding provided by Federal and NSW Governments.

**Decision: Carried**

**28 Tweed Shire Council Economic stimulus for regenerative landscape management**

The Local Government NSW lobbies the Federal and NSW Governments to request a specific and significant funding stream be made available for regenerative landscape management as an economic stimulus to be administered at local government level.

**Decision: Carried**

**29 Gilgandra Shire Council First generation dying swimming pools in regional NSW**

That Local Government NSW pursue designated funding from the NSW Government for the urgent replacement of first generation dying swimming pools in regional NSW.

**Decision: Carried**

**30 Snowy Valleys Council Eligibility criteria for Job Retention Allowance**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to amend the eligibility criteria for the Job Retention Allowance funds to allow a fairer distribution to impacted councils who have not had to 'stand down' staff as a result of the pandemic.

**Decision: Carried**

**Procedural motion** – refer remaining motions to the LGNSW Board for consideration.

**Lost**

**31 Cabonne Council Stronger Country Communities funding - additional round**

That Local Government NSW:

1. Thanks the NSW Government for providing \$400 million towards local infrastructure projects across regional NSW via the Stronger Country Communities fund.
2. Acknowledges that the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities fund has enhanced regional communities and stimulated regional economies that have been hit hard by drought and bushfires.
3. Lobbies the NSW Government to commit to an additional round of Stronger Country Communities funding, due to the economic impacts of COVID-19. This would allow the previous 93 eligible regional councils as well as incorporated and not-for-profit organisations in those local government areas to access \$1 million in funding for community infrastructure projects.
4. Calls on the NSW Government to include in the criteria that infrastructure projects must stimulate regional economies by employing local tradespeople and buying local supplies.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)**

**Bourke Shire Council**

**Stronger Country Communities**

That Local Government lobbies the NSW Government to continue the Stronger Country Communities Program to ensure that the benefits that have been able to flow to rural communities since its inception continue to do so.

**Amendment from Inner West**

That Local Government NSW:

1. Thanks the NSW Government for providing \$400 million towards local infrastructure projects across regional NSW via the Stronger Country Communities fund.
2. Acknowledges that the NSW Government's Stronger Country Communities fund has enhanced regional communities and stimulated regional economies that have been hit hard by drought and bushfires.
3. Lobbies the NSW Government to commit to an additional round of Stronger Country Communities funding, due to the economic impacts of COVID-19. This would allow the previous 93 eligible regional councils as well as incorporated and not-for-profit organisations in those local government areas to access \$1 million in funding for community infrastructure projects.
4. Calls on the NSW Government to include in the criteria that infrastructure projects must stimulate regional economies by employing local tradespeople and buying local supplies.
5. Notes that all state Government funding should be administered in a fair, transparent and competent manner. In the last round some Councils who meet the guidelines to qualified for a grant from the NSW Government's Stronger Communities Fund were excluded from applying. We also note the decision making process for the allocation of funds in now a matter before the NSW Auditor General.

**Amendment becomes the motion**

**Procedural motion** – That motion 31 be put.

**Carried**

**Decision: Carried**

**32 Newcastle City Council** Gateway City classification

That Local Government NSW:

1. Calls on the NSW Government to establish a consistent geography and classification across all NSW Government funding sources that enables equitable access for all local government areas (LGAs). This would provide more integrity to the process and enable new opportunities for LGAs like Newcastle and Wollongong, who have been effectively shut out from a range of funding sources; and
2. Asks the NSW Government to create a Gateway City classification to recognise that LGAs like Newcastle and Wollongong are major regional economic centres that sit between a metropolitan and regional classification. Gateway Cities will play a critical role in the future economic resilience and competitive opportunities of the state, particularly with the ongoing impacts of COVID-19. This would improve the efficiency and value for money of NSW Government grants;

**(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)**

**Wollongong City Council** Gateway Cities classification

That Local Government NSW writes to the Premier of NSW to request the NSW Government:

1. Consider creating a Gateway City classification for LGA's like Wollongong and Newcastle to recognise the contribution they make to their respective regions and the nation.
2. Include a Gateway City classification in the Restart NSW program to provide LGA's like Wollongong and Newcastle with access to funds that support regionally significant projects.

**Procedural motion** – That motion 32 be put.

**Carried**

**Decision: Carried**

**33 Lane Cove Council** Post-COVID stimulus funding to promote the arts

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government for post-COVID stimulus funding to promote the arts (art galleries, performances, exhibitions, festivals) in our communities.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motions set out in small font)**

**Bega Valley Shire Council** Regional Arts NSW support

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to support Regional Arts NSW to continue as an effective model representing the network of Regional Arts Development Organisations (RADOs).

**Wagga Wagga City Council** Arts and entertainment sector support

That Local Government NSW advocates to State and Federal Governments to support the arts and entertainment sector throughout NSW, especially in regional areas due to COVID-19.

**Lismore City Council** Regional arts recovery from COVID-19

That Local Government NSW:

1. Recognises the unique role regional arts organisations play in supporting the arts and cultural sector and providing community access to arts and cultural activity across NSW. And, that while the COVID-19 crisis has had an immediate and devastating impact on the arts and creative industries across the country, acknowledges regional artists and arts organisations have experienced particular challenges impacting their access to audiences, markets and income generation.
2. Strongly advocates for increased funding and support for the recovery initiatives of regional arts organisations and individuals as they emerge from this crisis.

**Decision: Carried**

**Economic policy affecting local government**

**34 Georges River Council Inquiry into the Local Government Rating System in NSW**

That Local Government NSW calls on members of the NSW Legislative Council to immediately establish an Inquiry into the NSW Local Government Rating and Revenue System to ensure that the long term financial sustainability of councils can be guaranteed and to address:

1. The response of the NSW Government to the IPART Review of the NSW Rating System (2016) that found 'the current system undermines council incentives to pursue growth and urban renewal, because they do not receive a commensurate increase in rates revenue to service new developments';
2. The findings of the August 2020 NSW Productivity Commission Green Paper that found 'the rate peg system does not currently compensate councils for having to service a larger pool of ratepayers, this leaves local governments with insufficient revenue to meet demand and an incentive to avoid housing growth';
3. The lack of action arising from the findings of the Henry Review of Taxation, the NSW Treasury Corporation's assessment of the financial sustainability of NSW councils and the NSW Independent Local Government Review Panel's Final Report;
4. The financial impact on the 2016 amalgamated councils and their communities, of the 'rates path protection freeze' that prevented the introduction of fair and equitable rating systems within 20 amalgamated local government areas until 2020;
5. The intergenerational inequity arising from the lack of rating reform in NSW;
6. Whether the century-old rating system and the NSW Local Government Act 1993 remains fit for purpose;
7. The demand from communities that councils take on the increasing financial responsibilities of population growth, infrastructure requirements and provide an increasingly large and diverse range of services, and the impact that the rate peg has on those responsibilities; and
8. The impact of cost shifting from Federal and NSW Governments onto NSW councils without financial compensation.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)**

**Lake Macquarie City Council Changes to Local Government Act from IPART Rating Review**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to expedite the changes required to the Local Government Act 1993 to deliver the reforms supported in the NSW Government's response to the IPART Review of the Local Government Rating System.

**Decision: Carried**

**35 Blue Mountains City Council Fixing the Unfair Rating Systems in NSW**

That Local Government NSW:

1. Notes:
  - a. annual increases in overall rates charged by local councils are set each year by the NSW Government's Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) through the rate peg system. In 2020-2021 the rate peg increase was 2.6% to take account of costing of living/CPI increases;
  - b. at the same time, the NSW Valuer General's three yearly cycle of reassessment of land valuations to determine individual household rates means that individual rate payers may experience wildly different variations in their rates when compared to anticipated and published IPART rate peg increase. For example, in the Blue Mountains LGA, the NSW Valuer General's wholesale reassessment of land values meant that some individual households experienced rate increases of up to 40% (15 times more than the rate peg), while other households' ratings charges stayed the same and some households rates went down. Meanwhile, the overall ratings amount levied by the Council did not increase beyond the IPART rate peg of 2.6%;

- c. the NSW Government directed IPART to undertake a review of the NSW Ratings System in 2016 and it has taken four years for the NSW Government to respond and the Government is yet to implement any changes to improve the ratings system across NSW.
- 2. Calls on the NSW Government to fix the broken and unfair ratings system in NSW to make the ratings system fairer and predictable for all property owners across NSW.
- 3. Calls on the NSW Government to fully fund the excessive rate increases caused by the NSW Valuer General's reassessment of land values in local government areas, due to the economic impacts of the Black Summer bushfires, February floods and the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Decision: Carried**

**Procedural motion** – move forward motion 122.  
**Carried**

**122 Wingecarribee Shire Council Political party candidates at local government elections**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to amend electoral requirements so that:

- a. no political parties/groups run on the ballots; and
- b. all candidates are listed below the line as individual candidates.

**Procedural motion** – That motion 122 be put.  
**Carried**

**Decision: Lost**

**Procedural motion** – move forward motion 114.  
**Lost**

**Procedural motion** – move forward motion 108.  
**Lost**

**Procedural motion** – proceed with motions in business paper order.  
**Carried**

**36 Bland Shire Council IPART Review of the Local Government Rating System**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government, in the strongest possible terms, to ensure that Recommendation 34 of the 2016 IPART Review of the NSW Local Government Rating System does not become legislation because of the severe and adverse financial impact this will have on all mining affected communities in NSW.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motions set out in small font)**

**Broken Hill City Council 2016 IPART Review of the NSW Local Government Rating System**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government, in the strongest possible terms, to ensure that Recommendation 34 of the 2016 IPART Review of the NSW Local Government Rating System does not become legislation because of the severe and adverse financial impact this will have on all mining affected communities in NSW.

**Lachlan Shire Council IPART Review of NSW Local Government Rating**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to not adopt Recommendation 34 of the 2016 IPART Review of the NSW Local Government Rating System, due to the severe financial impact of the recommendation on mining affected communities in NSW.

**Blayney Shire Council IPART Review into the Local Government Rating system**

That, in relation to Recommendation 34 of the IPART Review into the Local Government Rating system, Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW government to either:

- a. not implement the recommendation; or if it is to be adopted
- b. meaningfully engage with all affected councils before doing so, including a careful consideration of the rationale for and impacts of the recommendation and solutions for any adverse impacts on the financial viability of affected councils.

**Decision: Carried**

**37 Lachlan Shire Council** **Re-ascertainment of mining land**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government and the NSW Valuer General to limit or prohibit the retrospective revaluation or re-ascertainment of land values, for mining properties, beyond the current base valuation year.

**Decision: Carried**

**38 Forbes Shire Council** **Consideration of land value by the Valuer General**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the Valuer General to not take into account the approvals for water use and water supply works when determining rural land values.

**Decision: Carried**

**39 Blue Mountains City Council** **Crown Lands and Plans of Management**

That councils at the Local Government NSW Annual Conference:

1. Seek the NSW Government fully fund the costs associated with transfer of management of Crown Lands to local councils, including the costs of developing and implementing Plans of Management for Crown Land Reserves;
2. Seek the NSW Government recognise the difficulties being encountered by local government of NSW in meeting the requirements of the Crown Lands Management Act 2016 and extend the timeframe for adoption of Plans of Management for public reserves for which councils are appointed as Crown Land Manager; and
3. Seek the NSW Government improve training and support provided for appointed Native Title Managers within local government of NSW.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motions set out in small font)**

**Greater Hume Council** **Management of Crown Lands**

That Local Government NSW urgently requests the NSW Government to adequately resource the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment so that Crown Land matters can be dealt with so as to reduce the large backlog of applications.

**Shoalhaven City Council** **Support for the completion of Crown Land Management Plans**

That Local Government calls on the NSW Government to provide greater funding to councils to complete Crown Land Management Plans.

**Decision: Carried**

**40 Kyogle Council** **Local government Financial Assistance Grants**

That Local Government NSW calls on the Federal Government to remove Part 1 Sec 6 2b of the Local Government Financial Assistance Act 1995 to remove the minimum per capita amount grant.

**Procedural motion** – That motion 40 be put.

**Carried**

**Decision: Lost**

**41 Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council** **Financial Assistance Grants**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to reconsider the factors that determine the allocation of Financial Assistance Grants, being road distance and other terrain issues, so that local government areas with difficult terrain receive a fairer distribution of Financial Assistance Grants. This is for the reason that the cost to build a kilometre of road in undulating and mountainous country is substantially more expensive than in the tablelands.

**Amendment from Broken Hill**

That, if the Federal Government commits significant additional funding to Federal Assistance Grants to ensure no council is worse off, Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to reconsider the factors that determine the allocation of Financial Assistance Grants, being road distance and other terrain issues, so that local government areas with difficult terrain receive a fairer distribution of Financial Assistance Grants. This is for the reason that the cost to build a kilometre of road in undulating and mountainous country is substantially more expensive than in the tablelands.

**Amendment becomes the motion**

**Decision: Carried**

**42 Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council Capital Improved Value**

The NSW Government introduce a Capital Improved Value (CIV) to the NSW rating system as an option available to all councils. This is so that growth and rates and revenue outside the rate peg percentage be calculated on changes to the CIV as this would enable growth in the rate base to keep pace with real growth and associated increases in demand for council infrastructure and services. In light of such support increasing the income of city councils, then a redistribution of Financial Assistance Grants to rural councils be considered at the same time, to enhance financial sustainability for the sector.

**Decision: Carried**

**43 Lismore City Council Australian made workwear**

That Local Government NSW encourages councils to purchase Australian made workwear (and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to bolster the national manufacturing industry.

**Decision: Carried**

**44 North Sydney Council Rates paid by educational institutions**

That Local Government NSW calls for the NSW Government to ensure educational institutions acquiring additional land pay council rates on new acquisitions

**Decision: Carried**

**45 Lismore City Council Maintenance payments in funding for construction projects**

That Local Government NSW strongly advocates for:

1. A change to State and Federal Government funding regimes to include acceptance of a strong case for part funding of maintenance on construction projects over \$100 million for city councils and \$20 million for rural and regional councils.
2. The establishment of a 'means test' or equivalent to apply maintenance funding.

**Decision: Carried**

**46 Lismore City Council Insurance for residents undertaking roadside maintenance**

That Local Government NSW make representations to StateCover to offer an option for councils to provide insurance coverage for residents who undertake maintenance on roadside verges.

**Procedural motion** – That motion 46 be put.  
**Carried**

**Decision: Carried**

**47 Blacktown City Council** **Change how a council's borrowing limit is calculated**

That Local Government NSW urgently calls on the NSW Government to amend how the Debt Coverage Ratio for local government is calculated, so external borrowings to forward fund Section 7.11 infrastructure do not limit other borrowings funded from general funds.

**Decision:** Carried

**48 Blacktown City Council** **Removing restrictions on power purchase agreements**

That Local Government NSW requests the Minister for Local Government to make a formal determination that entry into a renewable energy power purchase agreement structured as a contract for difference does not constitute an "investment" for the purposes of Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) and the Ministerial Investment Order 2011, and to take the steps required to clarify this for NSW councils and enable their ability to enter such agreements.

**Decision:** Carried

**Water and utilities**

**49 Narromine Shire Council** **Statewide water security**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government and Federal Government to expediate the lifting of flood mitigation zones to ensure statewide water security, including at Burrendong Dam.

**Decision:** Carried

**Procedural motion** – extend conference proceedings to 5pm.  
**Lost**

**Procedural motion** – That motions 50 to 58 are put together.  
**Carried**

**50 Federation Council** **Funding for critical water and sewer infrastructure**

That Local Government NSW requests the NSW Government to provide improved funding pathways for councils to be able to gain 60% + funding for replacement of critical water and sewer plants/major enabling infrastructure.

**Decision:** Carried (motions 50 to 58 were put together as a result of procedural motion).

**51 Bourke Shire Council** **Murray Darling Basin Plan**

That Local Government lobbies the Federal Government to expedite the finalisation of the Murray Darling Basin Plan to allow individuals and communities to plan for the future with an increased level of certainty.

**Decision:** Carried (motions 50 to 58 were put together as a result of procedural motion).

**52 City of Sydney** **Woronora reservoir**

1. That Local Government NSW notes:
  - (i) the NSW Government has recently granted planning approvals for an expansion of coal mining operations under Woronora reservoir, one of Sydney's key drinking water catchments;
  - (ii) the new expansion will see new coal faces established under the Woronora Dam, which supplies drinking water to Sydney. Up to three new underground coal faces will be established at the mine, with two of them running below the dam's water storage;
  - (iii) this decision to allow coal mining under the Woronora reservoir poses a direct threat to the drinking water of hundreds of thousands of Sydneysiders;

- (iv) mining activities under the reservoir could compromise the integrity of the water storages, potentially leading to leakages, and flow on environmental damage to the surrounding water table and the quality of drinking water supplies; and
- (v) the full impacts of the underground mining operations will not be known for several decades, and changes in the geological structures below the dam could continue well after the final coal has been extracted from the site; and

2. That Local Government NSW:
- (i) opposes the approval of long-wall coal mines under Sydney's drinking catchments;
  - (ii) lobbies the NSW Government against the issue of long-wall mining approvals under Woronora reservoir, and other mines which have the potential to risk contaminating Sydney's drinking water supply; and
  - (iii) opposes the approval of any mines which have the potential to contaminate drinking water supply of any community in NSW.

**Decision:** Carried (motions 50 to 58 were put together as a result of procedural motion).

**53 Bourke Shire Council** **Water security**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to provide the required resources to expedite the planning and consultation period for the proposed Western Weirs Program.

**Decision:** Carried (motions 50 to 58 were put together as a result of procedural motion).

**54 Tamworth Regional Council** **Water recycling opportunities**

That Local Government NSW requests the NSW Government to review the approval process to allow more rapid delivery of recycled water options; fund research into how water is recycled and treatment processes available for handling by-products from those processes and to commence a community education campaign across the State in relation to direct and in direct potable reuse.

**Decision:** Carried (motions 50 to 58 were put together as a result of procedural motion).

**55 Murray River Council** **Mandatory monitoring of sewerage/waste water**

- That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to:
1. provide financial support to local government in meeting the requirements of sewerage/waste water monitoring for the detection of pandemic related disease and illegal drugs; and
  2. lobby the Federal Government for a national adoption of the scheme.

**Decision:** Carried (motions 50 to 58 were put together as a result of procedural motion).

**56 Tamworth Regional Council** **Independent Water Commission**

That Local Government NSW petition the NSW Government to reinstate the role of Water Commissioner and establish an Independent Water Commission in order to provide an open and transparent process for the negotiation of water sharing plans that will deliver sustainable water security solutions for local communities.

**Decision:** Carried (motions 50 to 58 were put together as a result of procedural motion).

**57 Lachlan Shire Council** **Community water allocations**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government, WaterNSW and DPIE Water to review existing water allocation rules, for the purpose of providing community water allocations for regional and rural communities, where local economies and community wellness are adversely impacted by reduced water allocations.

**Decision:** Carried (motions 50 to 58 were put together as a result of procedural motion).



## Decisions of motions referred to the Board for consideration

### Planning

#### **59 Penrith City Council** **Review the diminishing powers of Councillors**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW Government addressing the issue of diminishing powers of Councillors in local government specifically through the introduction of several new bodies created by the NSW Government to replace the functions of council.

That Local Government NSW also specifically advocates the return of the power of determination of development applications with a dollar value of less than \$5 million, to local councils in the Sydney and Wollongong areas.

#### **Amendment**

That Local Government NSW advocates for all planning powers to be returned to councils, and also specifically advocates the return of the power of determination of development applications with a dollar value of less than \$5 million, to local councils in the Sydney and Wollongong areas.

**Decision: Amendment carried**

#### **60 Mosman Municipal Council** **Changes to Local Planning Assessment Panels**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to support existing well-functioning Local Assessment Panels and allow Panel Chairs, in conjunction with councils, to establish their own thresholds for matters to be referred to the Panel, and processes for public determination of matters and remove the expectation that Panel Chairs can direct council on development application timing.

#### **Amendment**

That Local Government NSW continues to oppose mandatory planning panels, but while they exist, advocate for the NSW Government to allow for councils to establish their own thresholds for matters to be referred to the Panel, and processes for public determination of matters and remove the expectation that panel chairs can direct council on development applications timing.

**Decision: Amendment carried**

#### **61 Central Coast Council** **Local Planning Panels**

That Local Government NSW:

- a. Reaffirms its position that “the establishment and role of Local Planning Panels (LPPs) to remain a decision of the council – adoption of such independent panels by councils should be voluntary not mandatory”.
- b. Makes representation to the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces and the Premier of NSW, to express its concern in relation to the change to the operations of NSW Planning Panels for the reasons noted below:
  - i. Requiring Panels to make determinations within 2 weeks of being provided an assessment report
  - ii. Provides no flexibility in scheduling were a Panel has a significant number of proposals for determination.
  - iii. This could reduce the Panel's ability to apply proper due diligence to each case or obtain expert opinion.
  - iv. Changes to the system of referrals of matters to LPPs may increase the risk of corruption
  - v. Allowing, at the Chair's discretion, applicants to attend a briefing, along with council staff, could remove the Panel's independence. The Panels were set up to be independent of the internal workings of councils, not working with them and applicants.
  - vi. The setting of timeframes to finalise determinations may impose undue pressure on councils.
  - vii. Removing the requirement for modification to go back to the Panel will encourage ongoing modification instead of the community getting what is exhibited in the first place.
  - viii. The inclusions of “targets” will put an emphasis on pushing approvals through rather than due diligence in assessment.
  - ix. The changes impose unreasonable and unrealistic demands on councils that require additional resourcing that is not funded.



current requirements for designating a Land and Housing Corporation major project as state significant development (SSD).

**Decision: Amendment carried**

**64 Mosman Municipal Council                      Payments to council Contribution Plans by developers**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to urgently review the decision to allow the deferral of payments for local council Contributions Plans by developers.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)**

**Lane Cove Council                                      Environmental Planning and Assessment (Local Infrastructure Contributions – Timing of Payments) Direction 2020**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to re-examine the Ministerial Direction that defers payment of section 7.11 contributions and consider introducing a pathway for councils to apply for an exemption in certain circumstances to support the timely collection of funds and delivery of infrastructure. This would involve considering a process where a council that is collecting monetary contributions for infrastructure that directly relates to an individual development (e.g. funds to acquire land for a park in the immediate neighbourhood) can apply to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces for an exemption that allows it to continue to collect payments at the Construction Certificate stage rather than upon the issuing of an occupation certificate.

**Decision: Carried**

**65 Willoughby City Council                                      Developer contributions**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to:

1. Support the use of 'value capture' as a means of allowing councils to apply a proportion of the value uplift gained from changes in planning controls to the provision of public infrastructure for the benefit the wider local community.
2. Establish a new threshold for Section 7.11 contributions under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act to be set at \$45,000 before the IPART review process comes into play.

**Amendment**

1. Support the use of "value capture" as a means of allowing councils to apply a portion of the value uplift gained from changes in planning controls to the provision of public infrastructure for the benefit of the wider local community.
2. Support the removal of the cap on Developer Contributions as specified in 6.8 of LGNSW Policy Platform.
3. Advise DPIE that if a cap on Developer Contributions is to be applied and restricted to the options outlined in Improving the review of Local Infrastructure Contributions Plans – Discussion Paper (April 2020), Option 3 is the supported approach being:
  - Implement one single threshold of \$45,000 for all Section 7.11 contributions before the IPART review comes into play.

**Decision: Amendment carried**

**66 Blacktown City Council                                      Time taken to review Section 7.11 contribution plans**

That Local Government NSW urgently calls on the NSW Government to reduce the process time taken to review Section 7.11 contributions plans.

**Decision: Carried**

**67 Lismore City Council                                      Local Activation Precincts**

That Local Government NSW:

1. Supports the establishment of:
  - a. a \$10 million (minimum) to be allocated to a 'Business Ready Fund' to support the development of the Local Activation Precincts (LAP) initiative across regional cities;
  - b. strong planning agency involvement through undertaking detailed land use, master and infrastructure planning within an LGA, with the possibility of joint procurement of studies in collocated sites; and
  - c. an LAP Project Control Group that must include local government representatives to ensure collective decision-making.

2. Requests the NSW Government to:
  - a. commit to 2 rounds of the LAP program (total of 8 LAPs);
  - b. commit to the establishment of LAPs in regional cities only for the first 2 rounds;
  - c. Round One being an ongoing transparent assessment, at key milestones suggest communiqué (for every part of the implementation process);
  - d. Round Two being initiated again at implementation Stage 7 (approvals stage of the Government’s process) of first round;
  - e. establish LAPs based on a local government area’s endowments to attract major employers, drive local economies and create a diverse range of local jobs by working with local council;
  - f. ensure any LAP sites selected have a process to identify if the connecting road will need reclassification (as per regional roads panel); and
  - g. ensure that adequate engagement is undertaken across agencies to facilitate delivery of outcomes as quickly as possible.

**Amendment**

That Local Government NSW:

1. Supports the establishment of:
  - a. a \$10 million (minimum) to be allocated to a ‘Business Ready Fund’ to support the development of the Local Activation Precincts (LAP) initiative across regional NSW;
  - b. strong planning agency involvement through undertaking detailed land use, master and infrastructure planning within an LGA, with the possibility of joint procurement of studies in collocated sites; and
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  - d. Round Two being initiated again at implementation Stage 7 (approvals stage of the Government’s process) of first round;
  - e. establish LAPs based on a local government area’s endowments to attract major employers, drive local economies and create a diverse range of local jobs by working with local council;
  - f. ensure any LAP sites selected have a process to identify if the connecting road will need reclassification (as per regional roads panel); and
  - g. ensure that adequate engagement is undertaken across agencies to facilitate delivery of outcomes as quickly as possible.

**Decision: Amendment carried**

**68 Federation Council**

**Funding for strategic land use planning**

That Local Government NSW requests the NSW Government to develop a strategy that would create a smaller scale version of the Special Activation Precincts to enable smaller towns to attract infrastructure funding to enable larger scale industrial subdivisions to occur to generate further employment/business.

**Decision: Carried**

**69 City of Canterbury-Bankstown**

**Liveable Housing Design Guidelines**

That Local Government NSW advocates for the NSW Government and Federal Government to:

- a. Support the inclusion of the Liveable Housing Design Guidelines in planning and building rules.
- b. Develop a search engine for dwellings certified as complying with the Liveable Housing Design Guidelines, and to make this information available at the point of sale.

**Decision: Carried**

70 Nambucca Valley Council	Unlawful Development
That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to amend:	
1	Part 15 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 to include a provision which enables a fee to be charged for a development application which seeks approval for the use of an unauthorised development that is at least the combined development application and certification work fees that would be payable for the same development if it had been commenced lawfully.
2	Section 7.12 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to enable a condition to be imposed within a development consent that requires the applicant to pay a levy of the percentage of the value of the unauthorised development which the consent permits the continued use of.

**Decision: Carried**

71 Wollongong City Council	Reclassifications of council owned land
Local Government NSW writes to the NSW Minister for Local Government to request that the reclassification of council owned land be delegated to council for determination and finalisation except when seven or more objections have been received during the exhibition of the proposed reclassification.	

**Decision: Carried**

72 Shoalhaven City Council	Public housing redevelopment as economic stimulus
That Local Government calls upon the NSW Government to redevelop old existing public housing stock to address current housing shortages and to act as economic stimulus for the regions.	

**Decision: Carried**

73 Liverpool City Council	Sustainable housing development
That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW Government to amend the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) to limit housing developments to cover no more than 40% of block size in urban developments excluding secondary dwellings.	

**Amendment**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW Government to amend the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) to provide more discretion for Councils to amend a SEPP when applying it in their Local Government Area.	
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**Decision: Amendment carried**

74 Wollondilly Shire Council	SEPP amendments to address farm shed loophole
That Local Government NSW requests the NSW Government to amend the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 to ensure that large scale earthworks on rural properties cannot be undertaken without a full development assessment process to properly consider and condition potential environmental, social and traffic impacts.	

**Decision: Carried**

75 City of Parramatta	Statewide Planning Portal
That Local Government NSW advocates for the NSW Government to consider and implement new options for NSW councils to notify the public, enhancing efficiency and ensuring consistency across councils.	
Further, that this include advocating for the introduction of a state-wide notification website to ensure all information that is required to be advertised by councils, local and state planning panels, including information formerly required to be advertised in print media, can be found in one centralised location.	

**Decision: Carried**

**76 Lake Macquarie City Council**

**Integration platform for Planning Portal**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to fund the development and implementation of integration platforms between the NSW Government Planning Portal and local government document management and application systems.

**Decision:** Carried

**77 Hornsby Shire Council**

**Amendment to Clause 263 of the EP&A Regulation 2000**

That clause 263 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 be amended to include the following additional clause (7) - A council may impose a compliance levy of 0.2% of the Capital Investment Value of a proposed development with a minimum levy of \$75 payable on all development and complying development applications upon lodgement of an application in the NSW planning portal.

**Decision:** Carried

**78 MidCoast Council**

**Manufactured Homes Estate definition**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to add the definition of a "Manufactured Home Estate" in the Standard Instrument – Principal Local Environmental Plan.

**Decision:** Carried

**79 Singleton Council**

**SSD and/or SSI assessment process**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to support local councils in the provision of advice into the State Significant Development (SSD) and/or State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) assessment process through the:

- a. Inclusion of fees for the reasonable costs incurred by a council for the review of SSD and SSI in the schedule of fees listed in Part 15, Division 1AA and/or Division 2 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000; and
- b. Establishment of a council inter-agency committee to assist and support local councils in the provision of advice into the assessment process.

**Decision:** Carried

**80 Federation Council**

**Essential Energy and Origin Energy**

That Local Government NSW requests the NSW Government to intervene and ensure more effective mechanisms exist to achieve more timely approvals and works from both Origin and Essential Energy to support developments.

**Decision:** Carried

**81 Shellharbour City Council**

**Ability for councils to mandate BASIX provisions**

That Local Government NSW asks for the NSW Government to enact changes to BASIX which would allow councils to mandate certain BASIX provisions, determined by the council, in new developments. Such provisions may include shading over west-facing windows, solar panels and full in-wall and ceiling insulation.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)**

**Rous County Council**

**Increase water conservation requirements of BASIX**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to increase the water conservation requirements of BASIX to have a minimum rainwater tank size of 10,000 litres and connected to all toilets, outdoor taps and clothes washing machines (except where approved alternative water supplies are available, such as a connection to recycled water supply scheme).

**Amendment**

That Local Government NSW asks for the NSW Government to enact changes to BASIX which would allow councils to increase certain BASIX provisions, determined by the council, in new developments. Such provisions may include shading over west-facing windows, solar panels and full in-wall and ceiling insulation.

**Decision:** Amendment carried

<b>82 City of Parramatta</b>	<b>Inclusive community engagement for development applications</b>
<p>1. That Local Government NSW calls upon the NSW Government to take an inclusive consultation and engagement approach with the community, particularly when seeking submissions on Development Applications which currently requires a written submission be made.</p> <p>2. Further, that Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to encourage councils to investigate technological options to receive submissions to proposals and plans placed on public exhibition from people with disability by way of audio recording or transcription recording.</p>	

**Decision: Carried**

**Social and community**

<b>83 Leeton Shire Council</b>	<b>Health services in rural, regional and remote NSW</b>
<p>That Local Government NSW:</p> <p>1. Advocates for the Local Health Advisory Committee (LHAC) model to be revised to give local residents a far greater say in the scope and delivery of health services in their local communities.</p> <p>2. Pursues a formal MOU with NSW Health and Primary Health Networks which provides the basis for collaboration between councils and NSW Health and Primary Health Networks.</p> <p>3. Makes a submission to the Inquiry into health outcomes and access to health and hospital services in rural, regional and remote NSW.</p>	

**(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)**

<b>Gilgandra Shire Council</b>	<b>MOU to ensure access to health services in regional NSW</b>
<p>That Local Government NSW actively pursues a formal MOU with NSW Health and Primary Health Networks which provides the basis for collaboration between councils and NSW Health and Primary Health Networks on planning for regional GP, dental and other priority allied health services including designated funding to councils to support these services in regional areas of NSW.</p>	

**Decision: Carried**

<b>84 Leeton Shire Council</b>	<b>NSW Health to retain public ownership of aged care facilities</b>
<p>That Local Government NSW calls for NSW Health to retain ownership of its National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and State owned aged care facilities.</p>	

**Decision: Carried**

<b>85 Lake Macquarie City Council</b>	<b>COVID-19 recovery: investing in night-time economy</b>
<p>That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to:</p> <p>a. accelerate the delivery of the Greater Sydney 24-hour Strategy,</p> <p>b. develop a Regional NSW Night-Time Economy Strategy, including toolkits and resources to support councils,</p> <p>c. establish a new role of Parliamentary Secretary for the night-time economy, and</p> <p>d. create a Night-Time Economy Advisory Panel with membership from local government and industries to support the work of the Parliamentary Secretary.</p>	

**Decision: Carried**

<b>86 Wagga Wagga City Council</b>	<b>Accessible athletics fields</b>
<p>That Local Government NSW advocates to State and Federal Governments to improve athletics facilities to increase accessibility and involvement for participants with a disability.</p>	

**Decision: Carried**

<b>87 Willoughby City Council</b>	<b>Disabled parking permits</b>
<p>That Local Government NSW advocates to NSW Government seeking a reform of the eligibility criteria used by medical professionals to issue disabled parking permits.</p>	

**Decision: Carried**

<b>88 Gwydir Shire Council</b>	<b>Amendment to Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983</b>
That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to amend the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 to:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Permit land vested in an Aboriginal Land Council (ALC) to be appropriated or resumed with the approval of the ALC and where the Chief Executive Officer of the NSW ALC has issued a dealing approval certificate.</li> <li>2. Lower the voting threshold in section 42G (5) for Local Aboriginal Land Councils to approve a land dealing for public projects proposed by the NSW Government or a local council, from “not less than 80%” to “not less than 50%” of the voting members of the ALC present at the meeting.</li> <li>3. Consider alternatives to Native Title restrictions on certificates of title on land granted under the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 where there is evidence that native title over the land has been extinguished.</li> </ol>	

**Decision:** Carried

<b>89 Tenterfield Shire Council</b>	<b>Increased migration to regional areas</b>
That Local Government NSW supports Regional Development Australia (RDA) Committees in lobbying the NSW Government and others to develop a funded business case for measures to increase migration from metropolitan and overseas locations to regional communities, where latent infrastructure capacities, employment opportunities, quality of life and reduced costs of living remain undervalued in target markets.	

**Amendment**

That Local Government NSW supports Regional Development Australia (RDA) Committees in lobbying the NSW Government and others to develop a funded business case for measures to increase migration from metropolitan and overseas locations to inland regional communities, where latent infrastructure capacities, employment opportunities, quality of life and reduced costs of living remain undervalued in target markets.

**Decision:** Amendment carried

<b>90 Shoalhaven City Council</b>	<b>Long walking tourism in NSW National Parks</b>
That Local Government NSW encourages the NSW Department of Primary Industries to consider a business model around establishing and investing in long walks as tourist attractions in our NSW National Parks.	

**Amendment**

That Local Government NSW advocates for the NSW State Government to establish and fund low-impact long walks as tourist attractions in our NSW National Parks.

**Decision:** Amendment carried

<b>91 Liverpool City Council</b>	<b>Gaming and liquor licence applications</b>
That Local Government NSW:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advocates to the NSW Government for increased local government decision making in gaming machine provisions, including the changed Local Impact Assessment Band that allows moving of or increase of poker machines within the respective local government areas;</li> <li>2. Advocates to the NSW Government for local government's Social Impact Assessments to be prioritised in considerations relating to gaming machine provisions and determination of the band assessment's allocations; and</li> <li>3. Considers a policy position, where public interest is in the forefront of all such decisions, including investigating measures of non-association with alcohol and gaming industries.</li> </ol>	

**Decision:** Carried

<b>92 Hawkesbury City Council</b>	<b>Coercive control</b>
That Local Government NSW:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notes the alarming increase in the prevalence of domestic abuse in NSW, including as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the devastating impact this has on individuals and communities.</li> <li>Recognises that coercive control is a form of domestic abuse but that it is not currently a criminal offence under NSW law.</li> <li>Contacts the NSW Premier and NSW Attorney General calling for the criminalisation of coercive control in NSW, in line with The Domestic Abuse (Scotland) Act, currently considered the best-practice example of criminalising psychological, emotional and financial abuse as forms of domestic abuse.</li> </ol>	

**Decision: Carried**

<b>93 City of Parramatta</b>	<b>Family and domestic violence prevention resources</b>
That Local Government NSW supports the current advocacy of the Australian Local Government Association and Domestic Violence NSW by seeking:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a State or Federal funded Domestic Violence Officer, a role which currently exists in the local government associations in Victoria and Queensland; and</li> <li>funding and resources to assist councils with prevention of violence initiatives and the implementation of the newly released national Local Government Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Toolkit.</li> </ol>	
<b>(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)</b>	

<b>Cumberland City Council</b>	<b>Support for Domestic Violence NSW</b>
That Local Government NSW supports the current advocacy of the Australian Local Government Association and Domestic Violence NSW by seeking:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A State or Federal funded Domestic Violence Officer, a role which currently exists in the local government associations in Victoria and Queensland, and</li> <li>Funding and resources to assist councils with prevention of violence initiatives and the implementation of the newly released national Local Government Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Toolkit.</li> </ol>	

**Decision: Carried**

<b>94 Hawkesbury City Council</b>	<b>Sex work</b>
That Local Government NSW:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notes that NSW decriminalised sex work 25 years ago. Decriminalisation in 1995 resulted in improved work safety, extremely low rates of HIV/STIs, increased transparency and better access to justice, health and services for sex workers.</li> <li>Notes that sex workers still face discrimination and harassment on the basis of their occupation.</li> <li>Acknowledges that the 2015 NSW Select Committee on the Regulation of Brothels recommended that NSW Health consult with Local Government NSW about any additional assistance, such as educational briefings, that it could give councils to assist them to make sound development assessment decisions around sex services premises from a public health perspective, and that the NSW Government supported that recommendation. Local Government NSW therefore requests that NSW Health provides these education briefings to Councillors in both the current and each subsequent council term.</li> </ol>	

**Decision: Carried**

<b>95 Snowy Valleys Council</b>	<b>Local government's role in children's &amp; youth services</b>
Following the much-welcomed April funding package from the NSW Government of \$82 million for 260 council-run early childhood education and care (ECED) services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; that Local Government NSW:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocates to the NSW Government to continue to recognise the essential role of local government in early childhood education and care, and fund it accordingly, particularly as council-run services often cater to vulnerable, low-income families, regional and rural communities and children with disability; and</li> <li>Enhances Local Government NSW's Strong and Inclusive Communities Position Statement, and the Services in Rural Communities Position Statement, by including the recognition that local government is an essential provider of services to young people 0–24 years old.</li> </ol>	

**(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)**

**Fairfield City Council**

**Early childhood education and care services**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW Government to continue to recognise the essential role of local government in early childhood education and care services and continue to provide funding beyond COVID-19, particularly as council-run services often cater to vulnerable, low-income families and children with disability.

**Decision: Carried**

**96 Lake Macquarie City Council**

**Partnership with Headspace**

That Local Government NSW calls on the State and Federal Governments to investigate and explore a partnership between local government and Headspace National Youth Mental Health Foundation to ensure young people in rural, remote, isolated and public transport-deprived areas gain access to appropriate and relevant youth mental health services.

**Decision: Carried**

**97 Tamworth Regional Council**

**Medicare provider numbers**

That Local Government NSW makes appropriate representations to the State and Federal Government Health Ministers to ensure the current review of the National Medical Workforce Strategy, and in particular how a "District of Workforce Shortage" is determined when allocating Medicare provider numbers, provides flexibility and opportunities for medical practitioners and specialists to relocate to regional and rural communities so that they are not disadvantaged in the delivery of adequate and essential medical services.

**Decision: Carried**

**Transport and roads**

**98 Liverpool City Council**

**Fast track major rail projects**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the State Government to provide funding and fast track major rail projects to support job creation, economic growth and stimulate urban renewal in key areas across the State.

**Decision: Carried**

**99 Liverpool City Council**

**Tolls in NSW**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the State Government for a toll-free period on all new toll roads, and the removal of tolls, or a cash back scheme or other measures on other key toll roads such as the M5 East, to alleviate the financial burden on residents and other road users that use these roads.

**Decision: Carried**

**100 Blacktown City Council**

**Public road dedication free of cost**

That Local Government NSW urgently calls on the NSW Government to amend the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 to allow for the requirement of public road dedication free of cost as a condition of consent.

**Decision: Carried**

**101 Willoughby City Council**

**Electric scooters, skateboards and unicycles**

That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to legalise the use of electric scooters, electric skateboards and electric unicycles so that its usage can be safely expanded beyond the current restrictions where their non-motorised equivalents are permitted.

**Decision: Lost**

**102 Willoughby City Council** **Motorcycle parking on footpaths**

That Local Government NSW advocates to NSW Government to allow motorcycle or scooter parking on footpaths (unless otherwise signed) provided individuals do not obstruct pedestrian, public transport users, doorways, delivery vehicles or access to street infrastructure (such as parking meters and public bins) and parked cars.

**Decision: Lost**

**103 Bayside Council** **Cashless metered parking schemes**

That Local Government NSW advocates for the NSW Government to enable councils to establish and operate metered parking schemes for any road within its area of operations without the need to facilitate the payment of fees for parking in cash (notes or coins, or both).

**Decision: Carried**

**104 Tenterfield Shire Council** **Funding to correct historical errors in road mapping**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the State and Federal Governments for grant funding to assist councils deal with the costs incurred in correcting historical errors in mapping of actual roads so that ratepayers do not have to meet these costs.

**Decision: Carried**

**105 Blue Mountains City Council** **Road safety: use of speed zones**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW Government and Transport for NSW to review the criteria for speed zones of less than 50km to include a category for local roads that are shared by pedestrians and other vulnerable road users due to design and topography of these roads.

**(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)**

**Liverpool City Council** **Standardisation of speed limits for schools, towns and CBDs**

That Local Government NSW lobbies for universal standardisation of speed limits in school areas, and shopping areas in CBDs in towns and suburbs throughout NSW.

**Decision: Carried**

**106 Willoughby City Council** **Speed limits on dual lane highways & main regional roads**

That Local Government NSW seeks endorsement from Transport for New South Wales (TfNSW) to amend the NSW Speed Zoning Guidelines to increase speed limits on dual lane and high quality highways to an upper limit from the current maximum 110km/h with the ability to have more variable speed limit zones to accommodate weather and other factors.

**Decision: Lost**

**Industrial relations and employment**

**107 City of Parramatta** **Payment of Councillor legal expenses**

That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW Government for a review of the legal expenses, public liability and professional liability provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 and the Office of Local Government's guidelines for the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities for Mayors and Councillors in NSW to:

- a. allow for the payment of legal expenses as they occur to enable Councillors to adequately respond to legal proceedings being taken against a Councillor in defending an action arising from their performance in good faith of a function under the Local Government Act or defending an action in defamation; and
- b. ensure adequate processes are in place to reimburse the council should the outcome of legal proceedings not be favourable to the Councillor.

**Decision: Lost**



**112 City of Ryde** **LGNSW - Armidale Council**

- a. That this Local Government NSW Conference calls on the Minister to:
  - i. reinstate the elected Councillors of Armidale Regional Council (ARC) at the end of their six month suspension and let the community decide at the September 2021 elections who should represent them;
  - ii. recognise that, as happens in Ryde, Councillors must have access to information to enable them to perform their functions as elected members of the governing body, and calls on the Minister to strengthen the requirement in the Act for General Managers to provide information to Councillors and so avoid the problems that allegedly happened in Armidale; and
  - iii. to ensure that the Office of Local Government has adequate resources to assist local councils if they encounter serious problems and respond to complaints in a timely manner.
- b. That the Conference gives leave for a representative of the suspended ARC Councillors to address this Conference for five minutes.

**Amendment**

- a. That this Local Government NSW Conference calls on the Minister to:
  - i. reinstate the elected Councillors of Armidale Regional Council (ARC) at the end of their six month suspension and let the community decide at the September 2021 elections who should represent them;
  - ii. recognise that, as happens in Ryde, Councillors must have access to information to enable them to perform their functions as elected members of the governing body, and calls on the Minister to strengthen the requirement in the Act for General Managers to provide information to Councillors and so avoid the problems that allegedly happened in Armidale; and
  - iii. to ensure that the Office of Local Government has adequate resources to assist local councils if they encounter serious problems and respond to complaints in a timely manner.
- b. That the Conference acknowledges and thanks the Minister for her announcement this morning to reinstate the Armidale councillors before Christmas 2020.

**Decision: Amendment carried**

**113 Central Coast Council** **NSW ICAC and Federal anti-corruption body**

- That Local Government NSW:
1. Campaigns for the NSW Government to restore funding and ensure the independence of the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). The campaign would include, but not be limited to:
    - a) building alliances with key stakeholders and peak bodies to develop a position statement and build a public campaign
    - b) providing resources to local councils to build grassroots support for the campaign.
  2. Advocates through the Australian Local Government Association for the Federal Government to establish an independent anti corruption body with powers similar to those of the NSW ICAC.

**Decision: Carried**

**114 The Hills Shire Council** **Privacy protection of Councillors**

That Local Government NSW makes representations to the Local Government Minister and Office of Local Government on behalf of Councillors concerning protection in Councillors' employment, businesses and private lives. Disclosure requirements need to re-assessed. The minister and department should defend the reputation of Councillors' profession, and stand for the interests of councillors, rather than against them.

**Amendment**

That Local Government NSW makes representations to the Local Government Minister and Office of Local Government on behalf of Councillors concerning protection in Councillors' employment, businesses and private lives. Disclosure requirements need to be reviewed to support appropriate privacy protections, balanced with transparency requirements. The minister and department should defend the reputation of Councillors' profession, and stand for the interests of Councillors, rather than against them.

**Decision: Amendment carried**

**115 Kyogle Council** **Rural Ministerial Advisory Committee**  
That Local Government lobbies the NSW Government to establish a rural Ministerial Advisory Committee to provide policy advice on, and make representations on behalf of, rural communities and the impacts of government decision making on those communities and that the committee be made up of representatives from rural regions across the State.

**Decision:** Carried

**116 Wagga Wagga City Council** **Code of Conducts complaints**  
That Local Government NSW advocates to the Minister for Local Government and the Office of Local Government to conduct a review into the operation of investigation of Code of Conduct complaints including allocation of more resources from the NSW Government to address code of conduct complaints.

**Decision:** Carried

**117 Shoalhaven City Council** **Local government improvement summit**  
That the NSW Government holds a summit on local government to discuss and formulate solutions to issues which stakeholders see as a hindrance to good functions of local government.

**Decision:** Carried

**118 Central Coast Council** **Legislative Reform**  
That Local Government NSW actively campaigns for legislative reform that would:

- a. Make it an offence for a person to intentionally or recklessly threaten or incite violence towards any persons listed in (b) (i) below, in the exercise of any function under the Local Government Act or any other Act or any regulation conferring functions on a council.
- b. Make it an offence for a person to publish content that reasonable persons would regard as being, in all the circumstances, intimidating, menacing, harassing or offensive towards any of the following in the exercise of any function under the Local Government Act or any other Act or any regulation conferring functions on a council:
  - (i)
    - the Minister
    - the Departmental Chief Executive
    - a person authorised under section 746
    - an auditor appointed under Part 3 of Chapter 13
    - a council
    - a councillor
    - an administrator of a council appointed under this Act
    - an employee of a council
    - a police officer
    - a person duly authorised to perform the function for the purposes of the Act or regulation concerned.
- c. Impose, in addition to maximum penalties as provided in similar legislation eg Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007, a further penalty to the effect that anyone convicted of such an offence be disqualified from holding public office as per s 275 of the Local Government Act 1993.

**Decision:** Carried

**119 Georges River Council** **Council meeting minutes**  
That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Office of Local Government and the Minister for Local Government to amend the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993 and the Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils in NSW to require councils to publish unconfirmed minutes of council and committee meetings to provide suitable legal protection to councils to act on decisions without breaching other legislation and to allow the public to view the decisions of council in writing in a timely manner.

**Decision:** Carried

<b>120 Orange City Council</b>	<b>Working With Children and Police checks for elected members</b>
<p>1. That Local Government NSW advocates for the NSW Government to introduce Working with Children and Police checks for elected members.</p> <p>2. That reference is made to the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations developed by the Australian Human Rights Commission which provide a nationally consistent approach to embedding child safe cultures within organisations that engage with children.</p>	

**Decision: Carried**

<b>121 Albury City Council</b>	<b>Attendance at Council meetings by audio-visual link</b>
<p>That Local Government NSW calls on the NSW Government to amend the Model Code of Meeting practice for Local Councils in NSW to permit attendance and participation of councillors at council meetings and at meetings of committees of council by audio-visual link.</p>	

**(Note: This motion covers the following motions set out in small font)**

<b>Wagga Wagga City Council</b>	<b>Remote Council and Committee meetings</b>
<p>That Local Government NSW advocates for continuing to allow Councillors and staff to attend and participate in Council and Committee meetings by audio video links where it is reasonably practicable to do so and that the Office of Local Government NSW issue corresponding detailed practical guidance on managing remote meetings, which take into account the use of mobile technology.</p>	

<b>Waverley Council</b>	<b>Attending Council meetings online in exceptional circumstances</b>
<p>That Local Government NSW writes to the Minister for Local Government requesting that the Local Government Act be amended to allow for a Councillor, in exceptional circumstances, to attend ordinary Council and Committee meetings, with the approval of the Mayor and General Manager, via an online platform such as Zoom or Teams.</p>	

<b>Orange City Council</b>	<b>Voting protocols during COVID-19 and beyond</b>
<p>1. That Local Government NSW undertakes a review of temporary changes to Council governance arrangements as a result of COVID-19, including online meeting attendance, with a view to identifying positive impacts and any issues such as a limited options for voting in Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral elections.</p> <p>2. That subject to the outcome of this review, Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to implement permanent changes such as to allow for the option of online meeting attendance in specific circumstances and additional options for voting in Mayoral and Deputy Mayoral elections.</p>	

**Decision: Carried**

**Environment**

<b>123 Lane Cove Council</b>	<b>Noise complaints generated from park activities</b>
<p>That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government for the inclusion of specific provisions in the Protection of the Environment Operations (Noise Control) Regulation 2008 which stipulates that general activities within a park cannot be deemed 'intrusive' or 'offensive' during certain hours of the day.</p>	

**Decision: Carried**

<b>124 Bellingen Shire Council</b>	<b>Local Land Services Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2020</b>
<p>That Local Government NSW expresses its concerns to the NSW Government regarding;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the lack of transparency and prior consultation that has characterised the introduction of the Local Land Services Amendment (Miscellaneous) Bill 2020;</li> <li>• the removal of the legal ability of councils to make considered local policy decisions regarding certain land uses within rural and environmental protection zones; and</li> <li>• the adverse environmental impacts of the proposed legislation, in view of the findings of three recent reviews undertaken by the NSW Auditor General, the Natural Resources Commission and the NSW Parliamentary Inquiry into koalas.</li> </ul>	

**Decision: Carried**

**125 Bellingen Shire Council**

**Koala conservation**

That Local Government NSW supports the findings and recommendations of the NSW Koala population and habitat in NSW report and urges urgent action by the NSW Government particularly given finding 2 which indicates that given the scale of loss to koala populations across NSW as a result of the 2019-20 bushfires and without urgent government intervention to protect habitat and address all other threats, the koala will become extinct in NSW before 2050.

(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)

**Liverpool City Council**

**Koala sanctuary and wildlife hospital**

That Local Government NSW advocates for the creation of a Georges River Koala National Park and establishment of a well-resourced wildlife hospital in South West Sydney.

**Decision: Carried**

**126 Strathfield Council**

**Ausgrid – tree matters**

That Local Government NSW requests Ausgrid establishes a new liaison program between councils and Ausgrid where tree matters (in proximity to electrical assets) can be raised and dealt with properly and information on upcoming pruning activities conveyed.

**Decision: Carried**

**127 City of Canterbury-Bankstown**

**Funding for waterway maintenance on private land**

That Local Government NSW makes representations to the NSW Government requesting it identifies, or if absent, establishes a fund for residents to apply to for the purpose of improving or maintaining water quality in waterways that run through privately owned land then into public waterways in urban areas.

**Decision: Carried**

**128 Gilgandra Shire Council**

**Impacts of the Biodiversity Offset Scheme**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to provide designated funding to support councils' offset costs associated with the Biodiversity Offset Scheme that may be prohibitive to new midsize development which can demonstrate a direct positive impact on population and job growth as well as diversification of regional economies.

**Decision: Carried**

**129 Lachlan Shire Council**

**Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to include exemptions in the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 for events and other minor development from requiring a test for determining whether proposed development or activities are likely to significantly affect threatened species or ecological communities, or their habitats.

**Amendment**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to undertake a review of the need to include exemptions in the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016 for events and other minor development.

**Decision: Amendment carried**

**130 Narrabri Shire Council**

**Impacts of Biodiversity Legislation**

That Local Government NSW:

1. Expresses concerns regarding the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act and other land management legislation and all associated regulations and their impacts on farmers and economic development in NSW;
2. Calls for the immediate review of the Biodiversity Conservation Act and associated Regulations;
3. Calls for the involvement of local councils and farmers in any review of the Biodiversity Conservation Act and associated Regulations;
4. Calls for the immediate halt of retrospective prosecutions and all compliance actions under the now repealed Native Vegetation Act;

5. Calls for the end of so called "Restorative Justice" which unfairly requires farmers to lock up land under either Remediation Orders and/or Conservation Agreements;
6. Expresses its support for the protection of basic and fundamental property rights and its support for the basic notion that Government should not acquire or restrict the use of private agricultural land without compensation.

**Decision: Lost**

<b>131 Cabonne Council</b>	<b>Flood mitigation</b>
That Local Government NSW advocates for the inclusion of a division within the Fisheries Management Act, providing flexibility and cooperation between local authorities and the Minister when considering flood mitigation and prevention works within townships and their localities.	

**Decision: Carried**

<b>132 Inner West Council</b>	<b>Uranium mining ban in NSW must stay</b>
That:	
a. NSW councils oppose any move to lift the ban on uranium mining in NSW.	
b. Local Government NSW, on behalf of councils, writes to the NSW Premier and all MPs urging them to support sustainable and clean energy and jobs solutions.	

**Decision: Carried**

<b>133 Hawkesbury City Council</b>	<b>IPART Terms of Reference</b>
That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to include climate change considerations in approved terms of reference for investigations and reviews by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal pursuant to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal Act 1992.	

**Decision: Carried**

<b>134 Lismore City Council</b>	<b>Landscape hydration</b>
That Local Government NSW requests the NSW Government to:	
1. Recognise the importance of landscape hydration techniques in improving the hydration of our rural lands which lowers the impact of drought, reduces water loss from run off, and improves the ecology and environment of previously degraded rural lands.	
2. Recognise the role that local government can play in improving the environmental outcomes for our regions by partnering with farming bodies and land care groups to educate farmers and residents on methods of land regeneration including landscape hydration.	
3. Provide grants to local government which enables councils to offer landscape hydration technique training opportunities for farmers and land care groups in our community.	

**Decision: Carried**

<b>135 Hawkesbury River County Council</b>	<b>NSW Weeds Action Program administration</b>
That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Minister for Agriculture to urgently review the double handling of the NSW Weeds Action Program being undertaken by two NSW Government departments; NSW Primary Industries and Local Land Services, with a particular focus on the over burdensome reporting and auditing requirements applied to councils and County Councils.	

**Decision: Carried**

<b>136 Yass Valley Council</b>	<b>Weed management funding</b>
That Local Government NSW advocates to the NSW Government to increase the level of funding to local government to manage roadside weeds.	

**(Note: This motion covers the following motion set out in small font)**

**Snowy Valleys Council**

**Weed management following 2019/20 bushfires**

That, in the wake of the 2019-2020 bushfires, Local Government NSW lobbies the Federal and State Governments to commit funding to take advantage of the unique opportunity to undertake effective and pre-emptive weed eradication initiatives to control the weed population, in particular blackberry, and reduce the potential fuel load for future fire seasons.

**Decision: Carried**

**137 Randwick City Council**

**Global ban on the trade of wildlife**

That Local Government NSW:

1. recognises that the demand for wild animals and wild animal products is a primary cause of the emergence and spread of zoonotic diseases such as COVID-19 and represents a severe risk to global health, and
2. Calls on the Federal Government to advocate for a global ban on the trade of wild animals and wild animal products.

**Decision: Carried**

**138 Lachlan Shire Council**

**Review of the new punitive measures for dangerous dogs**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to overturn the new punitive measures that have been introduced requiring an annual permit for owners of restricted dog breeds and dogs declared to be dangerous.

**Decision: Lost**

**139 Hawkesbury City Council**

**Ban puppy farms**

That Local Government NSW:

1. Notes that:
  - a) animal welfare and the care and control of companion animals are state responsibilities in NSW but that these responsibilities are largely met by local councils,
  - b) unscrupulous breeding in puppy farms financially impacts on councils due to increased compliance costs and shelter, rehabilitation and rehoming costs, and
  - c) puppy farms are cruel and inhumane.
2. Notes that:
  - a) the Domestic Animals Amendment (Puppy Farms and Pet Shops) Act 2017 (Vic) prohibited the sale of breeders' puppies in pet shops and restricts the number of fertile female dogs kept by breeders in Victoria,
  - b) Victoria's tougher regulations resulted in large-scale breeders indicating they are seeking sites in NSW to continue their activities, and
  - c) there is significant community concern that puppy farms have moved their operations to NSW to avoid regulation and scrutiny.
3. Urges the NSW Government to strengthen NSW Legislation to:
  - a) transition pet shops to registered not-for-profit adoption centres to rehome dogs and puppies from approved rescue organisations and shelters,
  - b) limit animals kept by breeders and owners, including by limiting numbers of fertile female dogs on premises,
  - c) ensure breeder identifications numbers are required for all litters, including the removal of loopholes for "one-off litters", and
  - d) instigate a common database and better co-ordination between enforcement agencies across jurisdictions.
4. Notes that euthanasia is a significant concern to councils and residents across NSW and is an animal welfare issue, and urges the NSW Government to act to reduce the rates of unwanted and abandoned animals by:
  - a) funding free desexing programs and education programs for pet owners, especially in areas with high dumping rates, and
  - b) supporting more "pet-friendly" rental accommodation.

**Decision: Carried**

**140 Hornsby Shire Council**

**Amendment to The Companion Animal Act 1998**

That Local Government NSW lobbies the NSW Government to amend the Companion Animal Act 1998 to prohibit cats from roaming onto public places and private property.

(Note: This motion covers the following motions set out in small font)

**Central Coast Council**

**Companion Animals Act change**

That Local Government NSW requests the Office of Local Government to amend section 29 of the Companion Animals Act 1998 to include:

- The owner of a cat must take all reasonable precautions to prevent the cat from escaping from the property on which it is being kept.

Maximum penalty— 8 penalty units.

(1A) The regulations may, for the purposes of this section, specify what constitutes or does not constitute reasonable precautions to prevent a cat from escaping.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1), owner of a cat includes the person who is for the time being in charge of the cat.

**Liverpool City Council**

**Stray cats in urban areas**

That Local Government NSW advocates for:

- i. Tighter restrictions on cat owners (including that all cats to be microchipped and desexed) to be included in the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998;
- ii. Council to be funded to provide services that identify stray cats that are not microchipped, nor desexed and found on the streets, to be microchipped, desexed and housed until rehomed; and
- iii. Changes to be made to Section 11 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (NSW) to permit the release of cats under a Trap Neuter Return Program.

**Amendment making Liverpool City Council motion lead motion**

**Liverpool City Council**

**Stray cats in urban areas**

That Local Government NSW advocates for:

- i. Tighter restrictions on cat owners (including that all cats to be microchipped and desexed) to be included in the NSW Companion Animals Act 1998;
- ii. Council to be funded to provide services that identify stray cats that are not microchipped, nor desexed and found on the streets, to be microchipped, desexed and housed until rehomed; and
- iii. Changes to be made to Section 11 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 (NSW) to permit the release of cats under a Trap Neuter Return Program.

**Decision:** Amendment carried

**Item No:** C0921(2) Item 3  
**Subject:** COMMUNITY SUPPORT IN THE COVID PANDEMIC  
**Prepared By:** Gabrielle Rennard - Community Wellbeing Manager  
**Authorised By:** Caroline McLeod - Acting Director City Living

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT Council provides financial assistance totalling \$250,000 to ten local community organisations.**

**DISCUSSION**

Council resolved on 24 August 2021 to *receive a report to the next council meeting addressing how up to \$250,000 can be targeted to those most in need in our community eg through expanding Council’s own social programs, or via grants to community organizations such as Addison Road and Exodus Foundation.* This financial assistance is in addition to the assistance totaling \$50,000 that was allocated Addison Road Community Centre and Exodus Foundation at the same meeting.

New South Wales is facing an unprecedented moment in the COVID pandemic. The Premier and Government are signaling that until the benchmark of 80% of the eligible population is vaccinated likely by the end of 2021, the current lockdown and pattern of escalating infection and illness/death will not ease. The Premier states that Government modelling indicates that October will be the worst month of the current phase of the pandemic. Additional support for essential community organisations in the Inner West is needed now to prepare for the coming months.

**COVID SUPPORT IN 2020**

Council provided \$250,000 in financial assistance to ten community organisations: Addison Road Community Centre, Asylum Seeker Centre, Exodus Foundation, Headspace, Inner West Neighbour Aid, Leichhardt Women’s Community Health Centre, Marrickville Youth Resource Centre, Newtown Neighbourhood Center, Rozelle Neighbourhood Centre, and Society of St Vincent de Paul. This was in addition to the major partners financial support from Council to Marrickville Youth Resource Centre (\$35,546) and Rozelle Neighbourhood Centre (\$22,959).

This funding supported delivery of between 2,000 to 7,000 food hampers per week across the Inner West, provided more than 4,000 asylum seekers with support (including 1,000 children), provided daily food and support for 300 homeless people and boarding house residents, provided legal and health support for 54 women from southern and eastern Europe (12), Asia, the Americas, sub-Sahara/African escaping domestic violence, supported older people in their own homes, supported Aboriginal people and community, supporting younger people experiencing mental health issues, and provided ongoing welfare assistance for 300 families, and single or older men and women. Overwhelmingly this financial assistance provided food security and other support through the initial year of COVID.

**COVID SUPPORT IN 2021**

Council has provided \$25,000 to Addison Road Food Pantry and \$25,000 to Bill Crews Exodus Foundation to support the increased demand for food insecurity for families in the Inner West. Funding, through the major partners program (Operations budget) has also been provided to Marrickville Youth Resource Centre (\$35,546) and Rozelle Neighbourhood Centre (\$25,254).

Council is advised that Addison Road Community Centre is providing 2,000 food hampers per week along with technology support and mental health, domestic and family violence support and personal support with isolation and lockdown. This is up from 800 per week before the current lockdown. The support is predominantly for the Vietnamese, Arabic, Turkish and Chinese communities. Exodus is providing 300 occasions of food service a day, along with other support. The client groups are 30% homeless people and 50% vulnerable boarding house residents.

Significant engagement at the front line of social service provision to vulnerable communities by Council officers confirms outstanding work with vulnerable communities. This includes provision of services to Aboriginal families and elders, working with women and children experiencing domestic violence, people who are isolated and requiring support, including boarding house residents, older people, refugees, and asylum seekers. The most effective option for Council is to expand our financial assistance, not to deliver additional support ourselves.

In dialogue with community groups, and with the NSW Government, those experiencing acute additional disadvantage during the current COVID lockdown include:

- Aboriginal people and communities
- asylum seekers and emerging communities who may not have the established community infrastructure to help support them
- carers
- families who are struggling to effectively help their children learn from home due to a range of vulnerabilities and barriers
- migrant and refugee communities
- people who are experiencing domestic and family violence
- people with disability
- people with lower digital literacy and other barriers to accessing information
- people working in precarious employment
- seniors with additional vulnerabilities such as increased need for care, mobility support and experiencing social isolation
- women, including single mothers and older women, who are experiencing hardship
- young people under 24 years of age.

The organisations recommended further Council COVID crisis financial assistance play a significant role in supporting the community of the Inner West. They are key collaborators in meeting the needs of vulnerable people and have key roles to play in managing current crisis and future needs in the Inner West. Those recommended include: Asylum Seekers Centre, Community and Cultural Connections Inc, Deadly Connections, Leichhardt Women’s Community Health Centre, Rosemount Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services, Gunawirra, Inner West Boarding House Team, Newtown Neighbourhood Centre, Sanctuary House Women’s Shelter and Youth Off the Streets. Detailed information about these organisations and the services they provide can be found in **Attachment One**.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Council’s financial assistance is proposed to be sourced from funds as listed in the table below. These funds are available either because services are closed as a direct result of COVID or because the COVID lockdown restrictions means that these supported events will not proceed in 2021.

<b>Funding source</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Living Arts: EDGE events not proceeding in 2021	\$68,000
Leichhardt Espresso Chorus: Large public events will not be allowed in 2021	\$30,000
Yabun Festival: Large public events will not be allowed in January 2022	\$30,000
Library: Front line services are closed	\$90,000
Bali Memorial: Proposed public event cannot proceed in 2021	\$2,000
New Year's Eve: Large public events will not be allowed in 2021	\$10,000
Venue cleaning: Closed community centres and venues	\$20,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. [↓](#) Organisations recommended for COVID support

**Attachment One**

Detailed information on organisations the /services recommended for financial assistance

**Asylum Seekers Centre (ASC)**

<https://asylumseekerscentre.org.au/>

The Asylum Seekers Centre is based in Newtown and is a place of welcome and provides practical and personal support for people living in the community who are seeking asylum.

The Centre has received unprecedented further need for their service due to the COVID impact. ASC is seeing a daily increase in the demand for services as large numbers of people seeking asylum are without any financial support during this lockdown as they have lost their jobs and are not eligible for any social security support. Very few people are eligible for Federal COVID -19 disaster payments due to the majority are part of a highly casualised workforce and do not have access to permanent work.

ASC have been providing financial relief to hundreds of people to ensure that people do not become at risk of homelessness and believe the demand will only increase. Food relief has included electronic food vouchers for Supermarkets so that people are able to buy locally and have the choice to buy what is best for their families. For the first four weeks of the current COVID lockdown ASC spent \$40,000 and expect to spend \$60,000 in the coming four weeks.

ASC is seeing a significant decrease in people's mental health as isolation and strict lockdown measures are in place on top of living with an unknown income support to ensure tenants and basics such as food and utilities being able to be paid. This on top of previous trauma is contributing to large numbers of people becoming unwell.

**Community and Cultural Connections Inc (CCC)**

<http://www.ccci.org.au/>

Community and Cultural Connections Inc is a not-for-profit organisation based in Marrickville and servicing the Inner West, Burwood, Canada Bay, Canterbury-Bankstown, Strathfield, and City of Sydney LGA's. They provide emergency and crisis relief including food hampers, transport for seniors, culturally specific social supports and services, dementia services, carer supports, English classes and more.

In addition to their business as usual, CCI are having an increase in demand for services as result of the pandemic, including having to pay additional staff and/or increase hours of existing staff to further assist the community notably with respect to technology assistance, increased pressure on case management, additional support for mental health, food relief, legal issues, online program facilitators, increased domestic and family violence and isolation. These increased pressures for services have predominantly related to the Vietnamese and Arabic speaking communities, but also the Turkish and Chinese communities.

**Deadly Connections**

<https://deadlyconnections.org.au/>

Deadly Connections is an Aboriginal Community-led, not for profit organisation that provides information, referral, advocacy, and support to First Nations communities in the inner west and inner city. Deadly Connections seeks to break the cycles of disadvantage and trauma to directly address the over-representation of Aboriginal people in the child protection and justice system/s.

Deadly Connections have had an increased presence in the Marrickville South area over the past twelve months and have been focused on supporting Aboriginal young people and families and have formed working partnerships with Department of Communities and Justice,

Inner West Council, Marrickville Youth Centre, Barnardos, schools and providing targeted outreach, family support services and cultural connections.

**Gunawirra**

<https://gunawirra.org.au/>

Gunawirra is a community-led organisation based in Rozelle that empowers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, families and communities to develop to their full potential and to break the cycle of hardship. Programs focus on healing intergenerational trauma, trauma and grief through the influence of cultural identity, knowledge, and creativity. Programs also use professional clinical care, treatment and support to improve lifestyle, health and education. Gunawirra provide early intervention programs that empathise learning about culture, nutrition, storytelling, healthy relationships, support for Aboriginal women and children from pregnancy to starting school, supported playgroups and programs to support primary school children and educators.

**Inner West Boarding House Team**

<https://www.newtowncentre.org/boarding-houses.html>

Inner West Local Government area has the highest number of boarding houses in NSW. The boarding house team (auspiced by Newtown Neighbourhood Centre) provide a critical role in supporting some of the most vulnerable people in the community.

The work includes ongoing case management support to occupants of boarding houses who are at risk of homelessness or those who have just become homeless and are looking to move into a boarding house. The team has been working closely with NSW Health during the pandemic to ensure access to regular testing and vaccinations, provision of food hampers or vouchers with the support of Addison Road Food Pantry, masks for residents, assistance with Centrelink payments and mental health supports, with many residents experiencing increased anxiety and additional stress due to COVID including the use of communal facilities in boarding houses.

**Leichhardt Women’s Community Health Centre (LWCHC)**

<https://lwchc.org.au/>

Leichhardt Women’s Health Community Centre is a non-government not for profit service based in Leichhardt and servicing the broader inner west by providing low cost and affordable medical health care, counselling and education to improve women’s health.

Like many services have experienced during the pandemic, LWCHC has had to redesign its services and counselling environments to ensure clients can still access the much-needed services. This has included redesigned therapeutic spaces, improved technology across all programs using digital touch points such as mobile devices and apps, programs specifically targeting young women and culturally appropriate programs, support services for women experiencing domestic violence, legal advice and mentoring programs.

**Newtown Neighbourhood Centre NNC)**

<https://www.newtowncentre.org/>

NNC has continued to adjust to COVID and the lockdown situation by providing services that respond with local solutions to complex issues with some of the most vulnerable in the community. This includes food drops and hampers, outreach to social and community housing in Marrickville and Newtown to provide information and drop off basic supplies to residents; repurposed the street library to a food pantry outside NNC; phone based social support for aged care clients, general information and referral support, maintaining service information sheets and low cost accommodation listings, weekly homeless outreach patrols to support rough sleepers and facilitate entry into temporary accommodation as per the Public Health Order, worked closely with SLHD in relation to provision of COVID-19 testing clinics and vaccination clinics for vulnerable communities.

**Rosemount Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services**

<https://rosemountgs.wordpress.com/>

Rosemount Good Shepherd Youth and Family Services is based in Marrickville and is a service provided to support and to meet the immediate needs of disadvantaged and marginalized young people and their families, including through advocacy, education, counselling and financial services. Rosemount has continued to provide much needed and invaluable services to young people and their families, with increased demand since the pandemic.

Feedback from Rosemount and the members (over sixty) of the Inner West Youth Alliance regarding the issues being faced by the young people of the inner west is in keeping with a report developed by Kids Helpline and the Australian Human Rights Commission on the impacts of COVID-19 on children and young people. The overall top five concerns related to COVID-19 raised were:

- mental health concerns resulting from COVID-19
- social isolation
- education impacts
- negative impacts on family life
- changes to plans and usual activities.

**Sanctuary House Women's Shelter**

Sanctuary House provides temporary shelter to women and children in crisis and is the only accommodation of its kind in the inner west. They provide daily necessities, furniture packs and access to case management during and after a women's stay, along with finding long term tenancy.

The demand on services including crisis and temporary housing for women and children, notably those escaping domestic violence has dramatically increased since the pandemic. This has been highlighted by DVNSW, who released a report outlining the impact of the 2021 Greater Sydney COVID-19 lockdown on specialist domestic and family violence services and the women and children who need them, noting 73% of services faced a significant increase in demand, 84% of services said there was an increase in the complexity of the situations for the clients referred and 48.5% services noted increase in length of waitlists.

**Youth off the Streets**

<https://youthoffthestreets.com.au/>

Youth Off the Streets are based in the inner west and work with young people, their families, and the broader community to create safety, offer support and provide pathways. They deliver a range of wrap around supports for young people including homelessness and housing services, counselling services, youth justice support, life skills programs, cultural support, mentoring, pathways to education and employment and community outreach.

All organisations have borne additional costs, have stretched resources, or struggling to meet the increased demand for support and assistance because of the ongoing pandemic crisis. The financial contribution from Council will assist with associated emergency relief, provision of food security, mental health and social supports, meeting health and safety demands and much needed access to digital connection.

**Item No:** C0921(2) Item 4  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF MOTION: THE LIVABLE HOUSE - REVIEW OF COUNCIL PLANNING INSTRUMENTS FOR MOBILITY ACCESS AND DISABILITY NEEDS  
**From:** Councillor Louise Steer

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**MOTION:**

**THAT Council:**

- 1. Review Council's planning instruments including the Local Environment Plan and Development Control Plan to ascertain what changes are needed to ensure that residents with mobility access or disability needs are able to modify their homes as needed to enable them to remain in their homes. The review should refer to the most current available standards including Australian Standard AS 4299-1995 Adaptable Housing, Australian Standard AS 1428.1 and other relevant standards and government policies aimed at enabling people to modify their homes for their needs; and**
  - 2. Include their recommendations in the current review of the Local Environment Plan and Development Control Plan and report to Councillors when the review is completed.**
- 

**Background**

Councillor Steer has been made aware by a number of disabled residents of their difficulties adapting their homes for their mobility or disability needs. It is important that all residents are able to enjoy the Inner West lifestyle whether or not they are able bodied. Council can make a huge difference by ensuring that planning rules enable residents to adapt their houses for their needs without unnecessary red tape or expense.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics reports that the percentage of individuals with a disability increases significantly with age, rising to more than 50% of people aged over 60. For those with limited mobility, reduced vision or other impairment, the ability to perform common tasks such as carrying shopping into the home, cooking a meal, using the bathroom or accessing items from high shelves may be unnecessarily limited by the physical design of a home.

Australian Standard AS 4299-1995, Adaptable housing, provides guidance for designing houses to accommodate varying degrees of physical ability over time.

A livable house uses building features, fittings and products in combination to increase usability, benefiting people of all ages and abilities. It ensures that rooms and services within the home are of a size and type usable by as many people as possible.

An adaptable house accommodates lifestyle changes without the need to demolish or substantially modify the existing structure and services.

An adaptable house should:

- provide easy access from both the street and car parking spaces in all weather and light conditions

- avoid stairs and use ramps only where essential
- dimension both ramps and stairs in compliance with AS 1428.1
- construct access paths from well drained, solid, non-slip surfaces that provide a high colour contrast to surrounding garden areas
- light pathways with low level lighting directed at the path surface, not the user
- protect paths and entries from weather
- avoid overhanging branches and plants which may cause hazards.

The Australian government discusses this and many other issues at this link  
<https://www.yourhome.gov.au/housing/livable-and-adaptable-house>

### **Officer's Comments:**

#### **Comment from Senior Manager Planning:**

Council reviews all development application proposals seeking to provide access and mobility facilities in accordance with all relevant Australian Standard including AS 4299-1995 and AS 1428.1.

Council's Strategic Planning team are currently reviewing access and mobility provisions for all residential accommodation as part of the Inner West Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and Development Control Plan (DCP) review project. A report will be presented to Council following the completion of the review.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**Item No:** C0921(2) Item 5  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF MOTION: SUMMER HILL ATM  
**From:** Councillor Tom Kiat

**Item 5**

**MOTION:**

**THAT:**

- 1. The Summer Hill Community have been impacted by the Commonwealth Bank’s decision to remove the Automatic Teller Machine (ATM) from the shopping village;**
- 2. Council Officers liaise with the Chamber of Commerce and Summer Hill businesses to identify potential businesses that may consider installing an ATM; and**
- 3. Council Officers and the Chamber of Commerce approach other financial institutions advising there is an opportunity for an ATM at the Summer Hill Village.**

**Background**

In late August 2021, the Commonwealth Bank removed their ATM from the Summer Hill Shopping Village.

While it is noted that many customers prefer to pay via card or electronic devices, there are still members of the community that require or would prefer the option of using cash as a form of payment.

There is an opportunity for another financial institution or business that take advantage of this gap and provide the Summer Hill Community with this essential community service.

**Officer’s Comments:**

**Comment from Acting Director City Living:**

A Development Application (DA) was submitted on behalf of Commonwealth Bank to Council for the removal of an ATM, under awning sign and external security system. This was a business decision made by the bank and unfortunately Council has no planning powers that warrants refusal of the application. The DA was determined under delegated authority by way of an approval on 8 June 2021. The DA did not meet the ministerial triggers to be reported to the Inner West Local Planning Panel.

The AShBiz Chamber of Commerce advises that “80% of the cards being used at the ATM were from other banks and as they were no longer allowed to charge the \$2.00 fee for non Comm Bank users, it is no longer viable for them to pay the rent.”

The Chamber president has approached Bendigo Bank to consider opening a branch.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**Item No:** C0921(2) Item 6  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF MOTION: SYDNEY WILDLIFE RESCUE  
**From:** Councillor Marghanita Da Cruz

**MOTION:**

**THAT Council refer callers to and promote Sydney Wildlife Rescue on website and next newsletter.**

**Background**

Rowena Morgan a local resident and volunteer with Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Services (Sydney Wildlife) has contacted me.

As a volunteer, Rowena rescues and cares for wildlife as well as handling panicked and confused phone calls, from the public, seeking advice on what to do with a sick or injured native animal, who have often wasted precious time looking for contact details.

While the council’s website has lots of wonderful information about native gardens and habitat for native wildlife, there is no information on how to help a native animal in distress.

Sydney Wildlife would like us to include a ‘Found Injured Wildlife’ button on the website which takes people directly to the Sydney Wildlife Rescue website and phone number to call for advice and assistance.

Sydney Wildlife Rescue provides:

- Rescue and care for sick, injured and orphaned native wildlife to safely release them back into the wild and is active in the greater Sydney Metropolitan Area.
- Community education about our native wildlife and its habitat and tailor it to meet the specific needs of a wide range of audiences from kindergartens to retirement villages.
- Are licensed under Sydney Parks and Wildlife and
- are a voluntary and charitable organisation, relying 100% on community donations.



*Found Injured Wildlife*

Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Services Inc., is referred to as Sydney Wildlife and was launched in May 1997.

Sydney Wildlife is licensed to do the work it does by the National Parks and Wildlife Service under the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974. Sydney Metropolitan Wildlife Service Inc.'s registration number is: Y256271-5  
 Our charitable fundraising number is: CFN15835.  
<http://www.sydneywildlife.org.au/>

**Officer's Comments:**

**Comment from Acting Director Community:**

Sydney Wildlife Rescue has been added to the following Council website page which already featured WIRES.

[Useful links and more pet information - Inner West Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

New links have also been created on the following Council website page:

[Citizen science – wildlife monitoring - Inner West Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

An article will be included in an upcoming edition of Inner West Council News.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**Item No: C0921(2) Item 7**  
**Subject: NOTICE OF MOTION: RATES REVIEW**  
**From: Councillor Julie Passas**

**MOTION:**

**THAT Council reviews the Rate Harmonisation Policy as a matter of urgency.**

**Background**

Given the amount of concern that residents and ratepayers in my ward have expressed to me and I suspect other Councillors, regarding the massive increase in rates to the homeowner in the former Ashfield LGA, I have been forced to lodge this motion on their behalf.

While Council has consulted with residents it is quite clear that there was no understanding of the impact of rating from the information provided at the time.

Council has adopted a rating system that is clearly hurting a very large population of our rate payer community (the vast majority elderly) who have expressed to me that council has a policy that is aimed at forcing long term residents out of their home.

While that view was not intentional by Council when the rating system was adopted, it is a matter of urgency that Council reviews its Rate Harmonisation Policy that has been adopted to a more equitable distribution of the financial burden of the Municipal Council.

It appears to my community that Council has adopted a Robin Hood rating system when in fact the so called rich are only providing a home for their family.

**Officer's Comments:**

**Comment from Acting Director Corporate**

The aim of rate harmonisation is to distribute the rates burden more equitably across the LGA. Council resolved to adopt a transition plan to harmonise rates over an eight-year period.

All transition timeframes have impacts on ratepayers across the Inner West. Council's decision to transition across the eight (8) years is a result of attempting to balance the need for an equitable rating structure as well as reducing a sudden impact for the majority of ratepayers.

The majority of former Ashfield ratepayers are not negatively affected by the resolution to transition over eight (8) years. Those that are affected hold the highest land values as determined by the Valuer General.

There are ratepayers in the former Leichhardt and Marrickville LGA's that are also negatively affected by this resolution and they too, are the minority. Those affected in these areas is due to the new minimum rate.

Council officers will seek advice on whether it is possible to review the resolution of Council concerning rates harmonisation which has already taken effect. This advice will be provided to Councillors.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

Item No: C0921(2) Item 8  
 Subject: NOTICE OF MOTION:SIMPSON PARK UPGRADE  
 From: Councillors Victor Macri, Sam Iskandar and Colin Hesse

**MOTION:**

THAT Council

1. Allocate funding in the 22/23 budget for the upgrade to the lighting at Simpson Park on the grounds that the current lighting is failing, as it is at the end of its useful life. Noting it is an important community safety issue; and
2. Investigate the condition of the public toilet in the park with a view to upgrade the facility in the future but seeing what measures can be taken now to improve its current state until an upgrade can be done. A report to come back to Council with options on the best way forward.

**Background**

The lighting at Simpson Park is failing with many lights out due to the age of the system to the point of where it is not cost effective to repair due to the age of the system. An upgrade is needed to ensure community safety as many residents use the pathway through the park as a link to St Peters Station and general safety of park users.

The toilets are in poor condition and impact on the ability for the community to enjoy the park. This issue has been highlighted to me by a number of park users. The ST Peters community has had their amenity impacted during the Westconnex construction.

**Officer's Comments:**

Staff have no comment.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

Item No: C0921(2) Item 9  
 Subject: NOTICE OF MOTION: OUTDOOR DINNING AND LIVE PERFORMANCE  
 From: The Mayor, Councillor Darcy Byrne

**MOTION:**

**THAT:**

1. Council urgently prepare a COVID-recovery outdoor dining and live performance policy to allow and encourage safe use of public spaces by local restaurants, cafes, bars and licensed premises, when health orders allow, with the objective of facilitating the safe reopening of local hospitality businesses;
2. The draft policy include consideration of the following temporary uses of public spaces in the opening-up phase following lockdown, noting that existing disability access to footpaths must be maintained:
  - a) Use of parking spaces in front of premises for outdoor dining and live performance;
  - b) Temporary closure of main streets and / or adjoining side streets by Council to create space for safe outdoor dining and live performance with the required barriers and application process to be undertaken by Council. The cost effectiveness of purchasing rather than hiring barriers as well as extended rather than temporary closures should be assessed;
  - c) Expediting new or temporary applications by businesses for footpath dining;
  - d) Council undertaking the approval process for outdoor dining and live performance in newly identified areas so that individual applications from businesses aren't required;
  - e) Use of Council car parks for outdoor dining and live performance;
  - f) Use of Councils parks nearby to main streets for outdoor dining and live performance; and
  - g) Provisions already enacted by the City of Sydney in response to the 2020 lockdown for outdoor dining and live performance that can be implemented in the Inner West.
3. The draft policy include options for how funding from festivals and events that have not proceeded due to the lockdown can be redirected to a small grants program to allow hospitality businesses to hire local musicians and performers to provide entertainment at outdoor dining locations and
4. The draft policy is to include localised options for all Inner West main streets in recognition that a variety of approaches may be needed in different suburbs and the whole of the Inner West hospitality and live performance sectors will need new outdoor options to operate.

**Background**

The ability of the Inner West hospitality sector to reopen and for residents to be able to frequent restaurants, cafes, bars and licensed premises, when the current lockdown is lifted, will largely depend upon creating expanded COVID-safe options for outdoor dining.

Similarly, the live music and performance sectors, that have been massively impacted throughout the course of the pandemic, will need to make use of outdoor spaces in order to begin working and performing again.

The public spaces that have previously been designated for regular use for outdoor dining (largely limited to footpaths) will not be sufficient to meet these needs and new spaces in and around main streets will be required if the hospitality and arts sectors are to recommence operating and to begin their economic recovery.

Many local hospitality and creative businesses and contractors are in a precarious financial position, desperately holding on and hoping that if they can survive until the end of the lockdown, that they can then reopen rejuvenate their businesses. They are very dependent upon Council and State Government agencies working effectively enable them to open back up an expanded range of outdoor settings.

The existing processes for businesses and organisations applying to make use of new spaces for outdoor dining and entertainment, which often require development applications and Traffic Committee approvals, will be too onerous and lengthy to allow businesses to make use of them to open up in late October and early November, when lockdown restrictions are projected to begin being lifted.

**Officer's Comments:**

Staff have no comment.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**Item No:** C0921(2) Item 10  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF MOTION: COVID FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR RENTERS  
**From:** The Mayor, Councillor Darcy Byrne

**MOTION:**

**THAT Council:**

1. Notes Council Officer advice that financial assistance can be provided to renters under s356 of the Local Government Act 1993;
2. Provides financial assistance, up to \$400, to residential tenants/sub-tenants/boarders/lodgers/occupiers who qualify for the Commonwealth or State COVID-19 Disaster Payments;
3. Limits the assistance to be claimed for one dwelling only, with total expenditure to be initially capped at \$250 000, to be funded from consolidated revenue and considered in the next quarterly budget review;
4. Officers develop hardship criteria to allow applicants who have suffered the greatest disadvantage to be prioritised through the application process;
5. Places the proposal on public exhibition for 28 days;
6. Provides a mechanism for renters to register or apply for the program immediately while the policy is on public exhibition; and
7. Reviews this financial assistance package after two months with a report to be tabled at an ordinary Council meeting.

**Background**

On August 24, 2021, Council resolved to provide financial assistance, up to \$400, to residential ratepayers who qualify for the Commonwealth or State COVID-19 Disaster Payments (See motion below).

Subsequently, Council officers have provided advice that Council can also provide financial assistance renters, who reside in the Inner West LGA, under s356 of the Local Government Act 1993.

**C0821(4) Item 8      COVID-19 Financial Support**  
**Motion: (Byrne/McKenna OAM)**

**THAT Council:**

1. Endorse the redistribution of a portion of Council’s annual Community Wellbeing grant funding by allocating \$25,000 to Addison Road Food Pantry and \$25,000 to Bill Crews Exodus Foundation to support the increased demand for food insecurity for families in the Inner West;

2. Support the redeployment of IWC staff where appropriate, to assist the work of local agencies;
3. Support the redistribution of \$20,000 from the Targeted Early Intervention funding from Department of Communities and Justice, in keeping with guidelines to key services, working with vulnerable families and young people in the outreach and early intervention areas;
4. Notes Council Officer and Office of Local Government advice that financial assistance can be provided to ratepayers under s356 of the Local Government Act 1993;
5. Note that COVID-19 has had a significant impact on Council's budget with \$13.8M in 2020/21 and the forecast impact for 2021/22 could be as high as \$11.7M;
6. Council's response be reviewed should further impacts arise;
7. Provides financial assistance, up to \$400, to residential ratepayers who qualify for the Commonwealth or State COVID-19 Disaster Payments;
8. Limit the assistance to owner-occupiers, to be claimed for one dwelling only, with total expenditure to be initially capped at \$250 000, to be funded from consolidated revenue and considered in the next quarterly budget review;
9. Officers develop hardship criteria to allow applicants who have suffered the greatest disadvantage to be prioritised through the application process;
10. Places the proposal on public exhibition for 28 days;
11. Provide a mechanism for ratepayers to register or apply for the program immediately while the policy is on public exhibition;
12. Reviews this financial assistance package after two months with a report to be tabled at an ordinary Council meeting; and
13. Receive a report to the next council meeting addressing how up to \$250,000 can be targeted to those most in need in our community eg through expanding Council's own social programs, or via grants to community organizations such as Addison Road and Exodus Foundation.

**Motion Carried**

**For Motion:** Crs Byrne, Drury, Iskandar, Kiat, Lockie, Macri, McKenna OAM, Raciti and Stamolis

**Against Motion:** Crs Da Cruz, Hesse, Porteous and Steer

**Absent:** Cr Passas

**Officer's Comments:**

**Comment from Acting Director Corporate:**

Council officers have placed the previous resolution to provide financial assistance to property owners on exhibition as required by the Local Government Act. This Notice of Motion would equally require the same exhibition process for a further period of 28 days.

Submissions received will be collated and reported to Council. To date, there is significant sentiment in submissions received and social media comments that this proposal is a poor investment and not an effective use of rate-payers funds.

The resolution requires Council officers to determine applicants that have experienced the greatest hardship to be prioritised. This approach may be prohibitive as Council has very limited capacity to obtain, receive and assess hardship opening the scheme to criticism and allegations of disproportionate assistance to some and not others who thought that were suffering hardship. The administrative time to assess the applications will impact on staff resources and may lead to disappointment for those applying that are ineligible or if successful they receive a smaller one off payment should there be a large number of applicants.

The time frame to exhibit a policy, open up applications for a set period of time, then assess them all would likely mean that a one off payment could be made toward the end of the year at which time the worst of the lockdown period may be over. October is looking at being the most difficult time for the most vulnerable and assistance needs to be provided directly to NGO's so they are able to help those in the community when they need it most. This type of assistance is already being considered as a separate report on this agenda.

State and Federal Government financial support packages are already in place and have been expanded since the previous Council report. The proposed financial assistance is further supporting those that have already received and can continue to receive financial support from these existing packages. This existing financial support in an ongoing and reoccurring payment and provides up to \$750 per week. Other support packages in addition to the COVID-19 Disaster Payment include:

- Support with my residential tenancy
- Cooked meals, food hampers, and food vouchers to those experiencing food insecurity
- Mental Health Support
- Test and isolate payments
- COVID-19 Micro-business grants
- COVID-19 Business grants
- Jobsaver
- Payroll tax support.

Despite this, Council is acutely aware of the hardship faced by many in our community in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. To assist members of our community (property owners, renters or others) that need support of all kinds, Council could partner with community organisations and leverage their existing networks and capacity to support those in need. This approach removes the risk of criticism from attempting to determine who is suffering hardship more than others and enables support to be provided expeditiously to those who need it most.

Council has a range of other support measures already in place to assist our community.

These include:

- A rate relief program which remains in place. The program allows approved applicants to defer their rates payment up to 12 months with no interest charged. Council continues to receive applications from both residential and business and to date has resulted in:
  - 329 residential rates applications that were approved; to date only 24 have been signed and returned totalling \$33k in deferred residential rates payment
  - 56 business rates applications that were approved, to date 32 applications have been signed and returned totalling \$334k in deferred business rates payment
- establishing a dedicated COVID19 page on Council's website with all relevant information to keep our community informed including:
  - the latest Health advice including Public Health Orders
  - links for Government support including financial support
- working with tenants in Council owned properties ensuring no tenants will be evicted and working with tenants depending on their circumstances

- established a list of food businesses that are open for takeaway or delivery, and a social media campaign encouraging residents to support their local restaurants and cafes
- Council's parking officers will prioritise public safety over other enforcement activity during the lockdown period
- main Street parking meters in Leichhardt, Rozelle and Balmain shopping strips turned off after 7pm to help the night time economy
- abolishing outdoor dining fees, saving local businesses \$1.5 million over three years
- holding public meetings to inform our community with officials from Health and Police
- providing links to relevant community groups and support organisations to support vulnerable people during this difficult time
- Council has created a support page for the local arts and cultural sector, which lists relevant grants, information and resources, including mental health support
- provided additional lighting hours to our parks and sportsfields to extend the hours available for exercise.

## ATTACHMENTS

Nil.

**Item No:** C0921(2) Item 11  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF MOTION: OPPOSING RATE INCREASES TO PAY FOR DE-AMALGAMATION  
**From:** The Mayor, Councillor Darcy Byrne

**THAT Council:**

1. **Notes the Morrison Low cost-benefit assessment of a potential de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council into its former councils of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville (See Attachment 1); and**
2. **Opposes any rate increase to pay for the de-amalgamation of Inner West Council and again requests a written guarantee from the Local Government Minister that the NSW Government will fund the full costs of de-amalgamation including the specific quantum of the funding commitment.**

**Background**

The recent Morrison Low cost-benefit report found that a de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council to reinstate Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils would have the following indicative financial impacts:

- one-off de-amalgamation costs: \$26.2 million
- ongoing costs and benefits (net cost): \$22.1 million.

The one-off costs largely related to information technology, transition and established arrangements for the three councils, staff redundancies, recruitment, and election costs. The ongoing net costs resulted from the major ongoing changes to costs, benefits, services, functions, and compliance obligations over the last five years. These included closed services, new or changed services, new operational/governance costs.

According to the report, an outcome of allocating the de-amalgamation costs and benefits is that all three councils have a significant operating funding shortfall, making them unsustainable longer-term. To fund this gap the estimated average rates would need to increase as follows:

	Current average rate	New average rate	Increase
Ashfield	\$1,723	\$2,044	\$321
Leichhardt	\$1,836	\$2,016	\$180
Marrickville	\$1,376	\$1,673	\$297

**Officer's Comments:**

Staff have no comment.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. [↓](#) Cost benefit for proposed Inner West Council



**Cost Benefit for Proposed Inner West Council**

**De-amalgamation**

Inner West Council

July 2021



Document status

Ref	Version	Approving director	Date
7547	Final	G Smith	July 2021

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## Executive summary

Inner West Council ('Council'/'Inner West') has commissioned Morrison Low to undertake a high-level cost benefit assessment case, to identify the benefits and costs of a potential de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council into its former councils of Ashfield Council, Leichhardt Council and Marrickville Council.

The Council requested that a cost benefit analysis on a potential demerger be prepared to assess complex economic, social and environmental issues. This analysis is to include the financial impact, the ongoing costs and benefits and the impacts on communities and the organisation itself. The purpose of this analysis is to inform the Council, community and decision-makers.

The report notes that there is no prescribed methodology for a de-amalgamation of councils in NSW and therefore proposes a methodology and assumptions. It is, however, acknowledged that different de-amalgamation approaches could be applied. Further there were time limitations, thus affecting availability/analysis of some information.

This report finds that a de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council to reinstate Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils would have the following financial impacts. The indicative estimated net costs for the proposed de-amalgamation are:

- one-off de-amalgamation costs - \$26.2 million
- ongoing costs and benefits (net cost) - \$22.1 million.

The consequential impact of these net costs per rateable assessment is illustrated in the following table, with some high-level sensitivity assessment of the one-off de-amalgamation costs.

**Table 1 Indicative de-amalgamation costs**

Indicative de-amalgamation costs	Ashfield Council		Leichhardt Council		Marrickville Council	
	0%	50%	0%	50%	0%	50%
Transition government funding						
One-off transition costs – '000s	\$5,105	\$2,553	\$9,392	\$4,696	\$11,745	\$5,873
Ongoing costs – '000s	\$8,471		\$4,609		\$9,030	
Rate assessments	17,436	17,436	25,438	25,438	36,678	36,678
<b>Cost/rate assessment</b>						
One-off transition costs	\$293	\$146	\$369	\$185	\$320	\$160
Ongoing costs	\$486		\$181		\$246	

For Inner West, 41% of the estimated merger costs were funded by government. Using a 50% funding scenario, for de-amalgamation, the above table compares no government funding to a scenario of 50% indicating a total reduction of \$13.1 million and a subsequent decrease in the cost per rateable assessment.



The report uses, as its basis, a predicative model to replicate the former councils' long term financial plans (LTFPs) had the merger not occurred. These plans have been tested for appropriateness and accuracy and serve as a basis to apply costs and benefits as a result of the merger, along with any costs that the councils would have incurred regardless of the merger, for example costs shifted from government. This creates a point of comparison that, at the time of any de-amalgamation, the three councils would replicate the services and service levels delivered by the Inner West Council at that time. This enables a comparison between the costs and benefits of either continuing the Inner West Council or the de-amalgamation of the Council to reconstitute the three former councils.

Having allocated the de-amalgamation costs and benefits in accordance with the distribution approach, the estimated net operating results, before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes, for the ten-year forecast period 2022/23 to 2031/32 are provided below.

**Table 2 Estimated net operating results**

	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
	'000s									
Ashfield	(\$11,688)	(\$6,780)	(\$6,895)	(\$7,010)	(\$7,084)	(\$7,012)	(\$6,929)	(\$6,711)	(\$6,380)	(\$6,261)
Leichhardt	(\$14,995)	(\$5,696)	(\$5,627)	(\$5,603)	(\$5,499)	(\$5,190)	(\$4,849)	(\$4,316)	(\$3,554)	(\$3,105)
Marrickville	(\$27,317)	(\$15,949)	(\$16,031)	(\$16,199)	(\$16,270)	(\$16,094)	(\$15,891)	(\$15,433)	(\$14,670)	(\$14,303)

The first year, 2022/23, includes the one-off de-amalgamation cost for each council. For each council there is a year-on-year funding gap, operating deficit, that would need to be addressed.

A key driver for councils is financial viability and sustainability over the long term. These results indicate the councils are not sustainable, that is that expenses exceed income. To address the funding gap, a one-off special rate variation (SRV) has been estimated and applied to year one operations, 2022/23.

**Table 3 Funding gaps**

Funding gap	Special rate variation			Rate assessments	\$ increase per rateable assessment
	10-year gap '000s	%	'000s		
Ashfield	\$74,600	19%	\$6,907	17,437	\$396
Leichhardt	\$58,400	10%	\$5,600	25,438	\$220
Marrickville	\$162,000	22%	\$15,300	36,678	\$417

There are a range of potential SRV scenarios that can be applied over a number of years to reduce the immediate burden on ratepayers. This would be a matter for each council. A high-level comparative analysis against Inner West Council is detailed in this report.

As a result of applying the SRV, a high-level assessment on the average rates indicates that the average rate increases for all councils, as detailed on the following page.



Table 4 Average rates

Council	Current average rate	SRV average rate	Increase
Ashfield	\$ 1,723	\$2,044	\$321
Leichhardt	\$1,836	\$2,016	\$180
Marrickville	\$1,376	\$1,673	\$297

The average rate increase for each council is lower than the increased cost per rateable assessment. The financial forecast modelling takes into account, amongst other things, a factor for growth over the ten-year period, thus reducing the level of SRV required to fund the de-amalgamation costs.

This report makes some comments on scale and capacity, which was the key driver for the merger. The former councils were deemed not to have sufficient scale and capacity, however, as the NSW Government's preferred merger model, it was deemed that Inner West Council has sufficient scale and capacity to perform more effectively than its former councils.

A comparison of the Inner West constituent councils' social and demographic characteristics was undertaken prior to merger, and this has been updated to reflect the attributes of the Inner West communities today. There are a number of similarities in the makeup of these communities and fewer differences. Since the merger any change between communities have been minor in nature, as might be expected as the merger only occurred five years ago.

The strategic aspirations of the individual communities pre-merger are consistent with, and have largely been carried forward into, the Inner West Council community priorities post-merger. The community is largely satisfied with the performance of Inner West Council and more satisfied when compared to other metropolitan councils. The social analysis suggests that the social and community impacts have not changed as a result of the merger and therefore there are no significant advantages or disadvantages of either the merger or any potential de-amalgamation.

Similarly, an analysis of the *Local Environmental Plan's* aims pre- and post-merger show a consistency in the land use planning aims that too suggests there are no significant advantages or disadvantages of either the merger or any potential de-amalgamation. The Inner West Council has also launched a number of new environmental initiatives around, water waste, energy, renewables and greening the community.

This consistent social and environmental direction is, as would be expected, because focus is more on the communities themselves than the governance model employed.

The Minister for Local Government recently made a decision on the de-amalgamation proposals for Snowy Valleys Council and Cootamundra Gundagai Regional Council. In both instances the decision was not to proceed with the proposals, this was despite the Boundary Commission recommending proceeding with the Snowy Valleys proposal and not the Cootamundra Gundagai proposal.

## Key risks

The de-amalgamation of Inner West Council, to create three new councils, also creates a range of risks that would need to be managed. In our view, the key priorities for the councils, if this proposed de-amalgamation proceeds, and recognising the risks inherent with any such change to local government, are:

1. managing the transition from the existing council into three new councils
2. managing the loss of staff



- 3. not recovering the full one-off de-amalgamation costs
- 4. realising any benefits the de-amalgamation can provide.

The NSW Government have indicated a willingness to fund the de-amalgamation process, but there is a high level of uncertainty as to what de-amalgamation costs will be eligible. Merger incentive funding was provided in 2016 for merging councils and, should either the Inner West Council or the three new councils be required to partially or fully fund the costs of the de-amalgamation, the communities must fund these costs.

**Introduction**

**Background**

The Inner West Council was formed, constituted by Local Government Proclamation dated 12 May 2016, as a merger of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils.

Under the NSW Government’s Fit for the Future program, the Independent Local Government Review Panel had recommended a merger of Ashfield, Burwood, City of Canada Bay, Leichhardt, Marrickville and Strathfield Councils, to form an ‘Inner West Council’ with an estimated population of over 330,000. Ashfield, Leichhardt, and Marrickville Councils submitted stand-alone proposals to the Fit for the Future process. The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal’s (IPART) report, *Assessment of Council Fit for the Future Proposals*<sup>1</sup>, ultimately rejected these stand-alone proposals based on a lack of scale and capacity.

The current population of the Inner West and its former councils is shown below. The former council areas have been calculated by combining suburb counts of those councils.

**Table 5 Populations**

	Population 2011	Population 2016	Population 2021*	5yr % change	10yr % change
Marrickville	85,104	91,699	103,167	7.75%	21.22%
Ashfield	41,080	43,062	47,596	4.82%	15.86%
Leichhardt	51,385	55,147	61,764	7.32%	20.20%
<b>Inner West total</b>	<b>177,569</b>	<b>189,908</b>	<b>212,527</b>	<b>6.95%</b>	<b>19.69%</b>

\*Estimated resident population

A comparison of the councils prior to the merger was reported in pre-merger analysis undertaken by Morrison Low in 2015<sup>2</sup> and is shown in the following table (using the Office of Local Government’s comparative data) compared to the Inner West in 2019/20.

<sup>1</sup> Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal, 2015. *Assessment of Council Fit for the Future Proposals, Local Government – Final Report.*

<sup>2</sup> Morrison Low, 2015. *Merger Business Case Comparison*, Sydney.



Table 6 Council comparator data

	Marrickville Council	Ashfield Council	Leichhardt Council	Inner West 2019/20
Full time equivalent staff	536	180	434	1,035
Geographic area	10.3km <sup>2</sup>	8.3km <sup>2</sup>	16.5km <sup>2</sup>	35.1km <sup>2</sup>
Population	82,523	44,175	57,266	212,527
Population projection 2031 <sup>3</sup>	102,300	53,400	67,550	223,200
Annual expenditure ('000s)	\$100,536	\$40,551	\$77,101	\$241,600
Number of councillors	12	12	12	15

The following map<sup>4</sup> shows the Inner West local government area (LGA) as it is today.

Figure 1 Inner West Council area



<sup>3</sup> NSW Department of Planning and Environment, 2014. *New South Wales State and Local Government Area Population Projections: 2014 Final*.

<sup>4</sup> .id, 2021. *Inner West Council community profile*. Retrieved from <https://profile.id.com.au/inner-west/home>.



### The option to de-amalgamate

The NSW Parliament passed the *Local Government Amendment Act 2021* (Amendment Act)<sup>5</sup> on 13 May 2021, which provides in Section 218CC that “The new council may, within 10 years of the constitution of the new area, submit a written business case to the Minister setting out:

- a) a proposal for the de-amalgamation of the new area, whether by reconstituting the former areas or constituting different areas, and
- b) the reasons in support of the proposal.”

Section 218CC goes further to prescribe the process for de-amalgamation which, in summary, is:

1. An amalgamated council sends a proposal with reasons to the Minister.
2. The Minister must, within 28 days refer it to the Boundaries Commission.
3. The Boundaries Commission makes a recommendation to the Minister.
4. The Boundary Commission’s report must be publicly released within 48 hours of it being received.
5. The Minister must, within 28 days, make a decision.
6. The Minister is to ensure that any approved de-amalgamation is fully funded by grants or other funds.

### Scope

Inner West Council has commissioned Morrison Low to undertake a high-level cost benefit assessment case, to identify the benefits and costs of a potential de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council into its former councils of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils.

At the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 24 May 2021, the Inner West Council has “resolved that Council:

1. Use the opportunity presented by the recent amendments to the Local Government Act to investigate de-amalgamation of Inner West Council and to prepare a report for an Extraordinary Council meeting in the first week in August 2021. Councils’ case should include:
  - a. Councils’ financial position;
  - b. Councils’ future financial position;
  - c. harmonisation changes in rates and costs;
  - d. service performance of Council has not improved and has been subject to significant community concern;
  - e. strong community dissatisfaction with the merger remains after 5 years;
  - f. communities of interest and community cohesion;
  - g. the dramatic fall in community representation (Councillors/population ratio) has not been good for our people;

<sup>5</sup> NSW Government, 2021. *Local Government Amendment Act 2021 No 11*. Retrieved from <https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/pdf/asmade/act-2021-11>.



- h. the merged Council has created a huge bias which favours political party control of Council; along with reduced opportunity and greater hurdles for non-political party representation on Council;
  - i. Council engages in community consultation;
  - j. thorough cost benefit analysis on demerger by a reputable independent source that has the capacity to assess complex economic social and environmental issues;
  - k. the ongoing costs and benefits on each of the councils if they were to demerge. The estimated cost of demerger in the ranges in vicinity of \$20M to \$34M and an annual cost ranging from \$11M to \$15M year;
  - l. the impact on staff, to be assessed independently;
  - m. the effect on the consolidated information communication and technology costs;
  - n. the effect on current governance arrangements; and
  - o. the effect on the ability to introduce new or improved service delivery.
2. Pursuant to section 14 of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW):
    - a. Take a poll of electors on the question of whether the Inner West local government area should be de-amalgamated, so as to restore the former local government areas of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville; and
    - b. Hold the poll on the day of the 2021 NSW local government elections, being Saturday, 4 September 2021 or such later or other day as may subsequently be proclaimed.
  3. Examine any additional cost of a poll on the amalgamation as part of the quarterly budget review;
  4. Write to Local Government NSW and seek to place on the business paper for the forthcoming Local Government NSW Conference the following motion, that: The NSW Government pay 100% of costs of de-amalgamation of local government areas forced to amalgamate where a referendum of residents has chosen to reverse the forced amalgamation; and
  5. Write to the Premier, Minister for Local Government, Leader of the Opposition, and cross benchers in the NSW Parliament asking their support for the NSW Government to pay 100% of costs of de-amalgamation of local government areas forced to amalgamate where a referendum of residents has chosen to reverse the forced amalgamation."

This report is intended to inform the Council and community of the possible costs and future costs and benefits of any de-amalgamation.

There are no rules or procedures to guide a de-amalgamation process for NSW local government. The preferred process and procedures will need to be determined should the de-amalgamation proceed and therefore we acknowledge the methodologies used in this analysis can be subject to different interpretation and challenge.

There has been a very limited timeframe within which to undertake this assessment, as this information is sought to help inform Council prior to the poll at the local government elections on Saturday 4 September 2021. Therefore, in the absence of any formal guidance, Morrison Low has relied on past relevant de-amalgamation cases, processes used in the merger and has made a number of assumptions under which the de-amalgamation would occur, which are listed in this report. The most recent de-amalgamation of councils in Australia occurred in Queensland on the 1 January 2014 and we have looked to these mergers for a guide to the possible costs and benefits that may occur as a result of a de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council.



The data used in preparing this report is largely based on publicly available information, along with information from the Inner West Council.

In 2015, Morrison Low prepared a number of merger business cases to inform councils on the likely costs and benefits of any merger. A business case was prepared for a possible merger of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils,<sup>6</sup> as was a business case for a larger potential merger that also included Burwood, Canada Bay and Strathfield.<sup>7</sup> This information has been validated and used to inform this cost benefit analysis.

Therefore, this analysis and this report is a limited study which concentrates on:

- estimating the ongoing financial costs and savings including changes to services from the Inner West merger
- estimating the one-off de-amalgamation costs
- distribution of one-off de-amalgamation costs and ongoing Inner West costs and savings
- predicting the financial performance of the de-amalgamated councils and Inner West against the Office of Local Government (OLG) performance indicators over the period covered by the Inner West Council's LTFP
- comparing that performance against each individual council
- reviewing the perception of the performance of the Inner West Council
- comparing each council's strategic direction through their Community Strategic Plans
- considering any environmental implications that may result as an outcome of a de-amalgamation
- consider the representation implications
- considering the potential risks.

## Modelling the proposed de-amalgamation

Inner West Council has commissioned Morrison Low to undertake a high-level cost and benefit analysis of a proposed de-amalgamation of Inner West Council, to the former councils of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville.

The modelling to establish cost structures, benefits and services changes was based on using a combination of public information, namely financial statements, Long Term Financial Plan, Annual Reports, Asset Management Plans and Council reports. Additionally, Council provided information tested and validated through individual staff interviews and some comparative assessment based on our knowledge and experience in the local government industry across Australia and New Zealand.

We have also drawn on previous work undertaken by Morrison Low as part of the Fit for the Future program, *Fit for the Future – Shared Modelling*<sup>8</sup> and a *Merger Business Case Comparison*,<sup>9</sup> for the development and validation of the de-amalgamated modelling.

<sup>6</sup> Morrison Low, *Merger Business Case Comparison*.

<sup>7</sup> Morrison Low, 2015. *Inner West Council's Fit for the Future - Shared Modelling*, Sydney.

<sup>8</sup> *ibid*.

<sup>9</sup> Morrison Low, *Merger Business Case Comparison*.



The modelling is intended to allow the councils to understand what the benefits and costs of the potential de-amalgamation are, based on the current service levels of Inner West Council. It has involved analysing historic, current and forecast performance, as well as drawing on information from other jurisdictions in which we have been involved in local government reform (for example, transitional costs).

The analytical results present the potential financial implications for the three proposed councils and the impact on ratepayers. A number of the NSW Office of Local Government performance indicators are used for comparative assessment.

## Methodology

### Methodology options

To re-establish the de-amalgamated councils of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville for comparative analysis is complex. One option was to allocate and distribute the current services and functions of Inner West Council by developing a range of service/function related criteria for distribution of assets, services and staff. This is effectively a zero-based budgeting methodology where all activities are justified for each service/function, with actuals/budgets/services built based upon what the service/function levels are for the future period, regardless of any previous position. The outputs of this approach would be extremely difficult to validate and justify for modelling purposes into the future. This option is also time consuming to analyse and construct. It was not possible to complete this type of analysis within the timeframes available.

A second option to re-establish the former councils is to use and validate the 2015<sup>10</sup> modelling projects that Morrison Low undertook to create a pre-merger starting position. Each proposed council's position will be created by using modelling for the six Inner West councils and validate by comparing the results of three councils that remain operational. Drawing on this work we will establish the starting financial and service/functional positions and for each proposed council for 2019/20. Change in service levels, costs, benefits and new industry compliance obligations that have occurred since the Inner West merger will be identified and allocated to the proposed de-amalgamated councils.

There are numerous variations to the above options that could be used, however, given the time limitations, the readily available information, past, current and future, comparative assessments and modelling reliability and validity, Morrison Low has chosen to use the second approach as a basis our assessment.

The nominal de-amalgamation starting date for this report is 1 July 2022.

The key methodologies and assumptions are detailed in Appendix A.

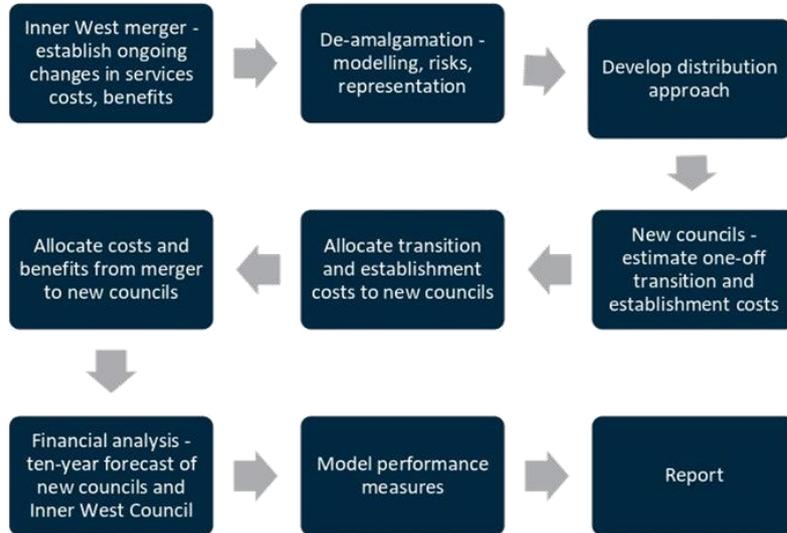
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<sup>10</sup> *ibid.*



The following diagram illustrates the approach taken, based on the principle that the de-amalgamated councils' service levels/functions/compliance obligations will be similar, to that of Inner West Council.

Figure 2 Cost benefit analysis methodology



**Reporting**

This report has been prepared to provide the key information required for Inner West to use for informing the community and other stakeholders of the potential issues and implications of the proposed de-amalgamation of Inner West Council. The report addresses the social, economic, environmental and financial areas of the proposed de-amalgamation. We have used OLG performance indicators as guide to the indicative performance of the de-amalgamated councils, with a comparison to Inner West Council. Indicative estimates for the average rate by rating category for each of the four council entities has been used to illustrate potential impact on the average ratepayer.

**Limitations**

The timeframes for this project have been challenging, with limited time and data constraints for the work to be undertaken. Notwithstanding these influences, the necessity for the tight timeframes is acknowledged and is tempered with recognition that the data available for modelling has some limitations as a result.

The data provided within the model is drawn from a variety of public and internal Council sources. The constraints and timeframes have limited our capacity to refine both the available data and the model itself to a fine level of detail. For consistency, largely publicly available information has formed the basis of the analysis, supplemented by some research, review, interviews, validation and assessment of Council provided data. Time constraints have been a limitation on the extent of assessment of Council information.



## Assessment of the Inner West Council

### The Inner West merger

The Inner West Council was formed and constituted by Local Government Proclamation, dated 12 May 2016, as a merger of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils. The Council undertook a transition process that entailed a one-off merger of costs along with ongoing harmonisation and rationalisation of functions and services undertaken by the former councils, to operationally form the Inner West Council.

There is limited reported information on the one-off merger costs for the Inner West Council. There were initial reports prepared in 2017, as a requirement of the NSW Government's merger process, however it appears no further reports were produced subsequent to this period.

Using the initial reports and information provided by Council staff assessing and comparing those one-off merger costs, the estimated indicative costs are in the order of \$24.3 million, largely made up of redundancies, information, technology and council establishment costs. These costs maybe understated due to the limited reporting and the timely availability of relevant information. Council received a \$10 million merger implementation grant from the NSW Government that partly offset these expenses. The one-off demerger costs are sunk costs and have adversely impacted Council's cash position in the order of \$14 million.

As a direct result of the Inner West merger, over the past five years, Council has harmonised and changed a range of services and functions, developed and changed business processes, and identified and implemented efficiency gains. These initiatives have resulted in improvements and rationalisation of processes and resources, changes to the organisational structure and staffing model as well as adjustments to contracted service provision to support service delivery and organisational operation for Inner West services.

### Costs and benefits

This section identifies, assesses and, to some level, validates the change in costs and benefits and subsequently services that Inner West has generated. These changes have established the revised service level offerings, policy and organisational operations that have harmonised services and offered a more equitable level of service across the entire Inner West LGA. These changes in costs, benefits and services, that were not in place prior to the merger, form the basis of the allocation to the de-amalgamated councils, enabling fairer comparison of the four council entities.

Through a process of reviewing and validating public and Council information, we have identified and documented the major ongoing changes over the last five years in:

- costs
- benefits
- services
- function, and
- compliance obligations.



The rationale and justification that makes up each of the line items in the Income Statement are detailed below. Following is a summary of the income and expenditure for those changes.

Table 7 Summary of income and expenditure

Income Statement	Ongoing costs / benefits for distribution '000s
Rates & annual charges	(\$7,300)
User fees & charges	\$4,891
Grants & contributions - operations	\$0
Grants & contributions for capital	\$0
Interest and investment income	\$0
Gains from disposal assets	\$0
Other income	\$0
<b>Total income</b>	<b>(\$2,409)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Borrowing costs	\$1,100
Employee benefits	\$7,724
Gains & losses on disposal	\$0
Depreciation & amortisation	\$1,654
All other expenses	\$9,223
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$19,701</b>
<b>Operating result (deficit)/surplus</b>	<b>(\$22,110)</b>

A summary explanation of the main contributors for each of the above line items of the Income Statement follows. Non-financial efficiencies have been identified detail in this section. More detail is provided in the 'Ongoing costs and benefits allocation for the de-amalgamated councils' section of this report.

**Rates and annual charges**

The former Marrickville Council had a \$1.5 million temporary SRV that ceased as at 30 June 2020, which hasn't been reapplied for through IPART. The Inner West Council decided to reduce the domestic waste management charge totalling \$5.8 million.

**User fees and charges**

The change is a combination of COVID-19 related impacts on Inner West Council, with reduction in income to 2019/20 of \$15.3 million, with recovery over the following three years. Noting the 2020 *Report on Local Government*<sup>11</sup>, which highlighted that 91% of metropolitan councils reported fees and charges revenue decreases. Further there was an increase in user fees as a result of new services introduced, current services extended and some services ceasing due to contracts not being renewed. The net increase in fees and charges income is estimated at \$8.1 million.

**Borrowing costs**

This represents the interest component of the loan to build the Ashfield Aquatic Centre.

<sup>11</sup> Audit Office of NSW, 2021. *Report on Local Government 2020*, Sydney.



## Employee benefits

Employee costs are the key cost drivers of Council's services and activities. To identify and validate the overall full-time equivalent (FTE) changes, a baseline of employee numbers was established and confirmed. From public information there was a recorded decrease of 115 FTEs through the merger process, as at the end of 2019/20. This change was validated through the review, interviews and assessment of information provided by Council, including redundancies, new and increased services, closed services and efficiency gains.

The allocation to the de-amalgamated councils is based on the change in services that were not in existence immediately prior to the merger. These include closed or ceased services, new or changed services and rationalisation of services due to efficiency gains in processes and vacant positions. This has resulted in an estimated net increase in cost of \$7.7 million.

Several new services have been introduced and relate to childcare, early intervention and early learning centres. There have been significant increases in some services namely, recreation, parks and gardens, litter control, building certification, fire safety and companion animals. A number of care and community services are no longer operating. Inner West Council harmonised three salary systems into one, which resulted in an increase in salary costs. Inner West also achieved some efficiency gains in the back of office, library and civil works services.

## Depreciation

To support some of the new and expanded services, Inner West Council had to create new building assets. To maintain these assets over their lifetime, depreciation costs of \$1.7 million have been generated.

## Other expenses (includes material and contracts)

Other expenses, including materials and contract costs, have seen an estimated net increase of \$9.2 million. This is a combination of new expenses that were not in existence prior to the Inner West merger, expenses to support the delivery of the new and increased service levels and decrease in costs for those services that have closed or where there have been efficiency gains.

The services detailed above, in the 'Employee benefits' section, all have other expenses as part of the service delivery costs and, in addition, there are a number of other expenses that have been incurred by Inner West Council that were not present at the time of merger. These include the Emergency Service Levy, new/additional governance and compliance requirements for all councils, additional community programs, community engagement, asset maintenance for the new building assets, information technology and communications, planning panels and design review panels.



### Other merger efficiencies

Inner West Council has undertaken service reviews to optimise the efficiencies<sup>12</sup> of Council's operation in the delivery of improved service levels. These efficiencies include:

- Improved governance - Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee improved focus on financial reporting, risk management, internal controls, governance and internal and external audit.
- Risk management - a harmonised approach to risk management including business continuity planning and incident management, a risk framework and controls.
- Online customer request system with tracking capability, including parking permits, certificates and customer requests.
- Online booking systems for community venues, waste and parks.
- Development application processing times - improvement of 29% on former Marrickville Council.
- Online development application lodgement tracking system.
- Audit and response to external combustible cladding across the LGA.
- Installation of new technologies across the library network, including a floating collection.
- Utility contracts and pricing.

Other efficiencies achieved through economies of scale include procurement processes, enhanced purchasing power and value for money. A real increase in productivity through resource specialisation, improved business processes and more timely delivery of projects through enhanced project management practices.

### Scale and capacity

Scale and capacity were the key drivers for the merger. The Independent Local Government Review Panel's assessment of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville determined that while the councils were financially sustainable, all individually lacked scale and capacity. By default, as the NSW Government's chosen merger model, it was determined that the Inner West Council had sufficient scale and capacity.

Since the merger, the Inner West Council has been able draw on its increased capacity to:

- Partner and be represented on regional and NSW Government networks. Inner West has established and maintained ongoing relationships with executives including, for example, deputy secretaries, chief executive officers and executive directors of the Departments of Communities and Justice, Planning, Industry and Environment, Multicultural NSW, Create NSW and the Public Service Commission.
- Participate in various advocacy, planning, strategic development/alignment, partnerships and resourcing opportunities with NSW and Commonwealth agencies.
- Work closely with key regional neighbours and support the sector in general. Inner West Council supported Eurobodalla with the local supply of officers following the devastating bushfires in 2020.

<sup>12</sup> Inner West Council, 2021. *Report to Council - 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021*, Sydney.



- Become involved in a broader range of projects and initiatives that benefit the community including:
  - resource recovery
  - zero waste
  - waste and food and organics improvements
  - solar energy, renewables and energy efficiency.

While some of these initiatives may have been delivered by the constituent council, the scale and capacity of the Inner West Council has enabled a broader range of initiatives that were delivered more cost effectively.

## The de-amalgamation

### Model fundamentals

Given that the Amendment Act does not define the specific basis for the treatment of de-amalgamating councils, there are no objective standards nor requirements for the distribution of income, expenses, assets and liabilities of a merged local government entity, such as Inner West Council.

The purpose of our de-amalgamation model is not to attempt to predict the outcome of the specific requirements concerning the breakup and allocation of Inner West Council, that may follow any decision to actually de-amalgamate, in the event that such a decision eventuated and gained Ministerial Approval.

Given this context, we have taken the approach of modelling the operating position that each of the pre-merger councils would have been in, had they:

- not merged, but continued to operate as separate entities
- nonetheless, implemented similar decisions during the period of amalgamation to those actually taken by the Inner West Council in relation to such issues as service levels, delivery of new assets, responses to external impacts (COVID-19), etc
- incurred costs similar to those of amalgamation and de-amalgamation.

As noted above (refer to 'Methodology options'), this method of modelling:

1. is not a zero-based model
2. takes the previous operating structure of pre-merger councils as its starting point
3. adopts amendments to reflect binding decisions and changes in organisational environment during the period of merged operations
4. absorbs and distributes legacy costs and benefits of the amalgamation/de-amalgamation process.

This is to some extent a counter-factual model - it answers the question "what would the financial position of councils be, had they not merged?". We consider that this provides a useful starting point for analysis and consideration of the de-amalgamation option.



**Details of modelling**

The nominal de-amalgamation date for the purposes of this report is 1 July 2022.

The specific processes adopted to create the de-amalgamation model include the following:

1. We have commenced with the operating statement and balance sheet for each of the pre-amalgamation councils, as per 2014/15 published financial statements and previous modelling to 2019/20.
2. We have used utilised modelling techniques and assumptions based on our experience and benchmark data, applicable to the NSW metropolitan local government context, to forecast the financial position of each council in 2021/22.
3. We have validated these methodologies and assumptions by applying these same techniques to modelling the long-term financial performance of three councils that did not participate in LGA mergers (Burwood, Canada Bay, Strathfield). The result of this comparison was that the modelled assumptions were able to accurately predict the financial position of these un-merged councils to 2019/20. This serves to confirm that the modelling methods and assumptions are not unreasonable.
4. To further validate the modelling of the subject councils, we compared the 2019/20 actual results for Inner West Council with the aggregate of the modelled position of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville. We were able to largely reconcile the results, indicating that any departures between the forecast aggregate position and actual Inner West Council are explainable in terms of the schedule of identified changes.

We have therefore assumed that de-amalgamated councils will effectively return to their previous operating structure, staffing levels, etc; and will substantially return to their previous position in terms of hard assets (IPP&E) and loan debt with the addition of new assets and loans.

**Representation**

One of the benefits of de-amalgamation is the improvement in representation. The number of people represented by each councillor will decrease under a de-amalgamation arrangement, providing easier access to their councillors and the council. We have assumed that the number of councillors will be the same as they were prior to the merger.

Following is the population representation per councillor based on the 2021 estimated population.

**Table 8 Comparison of representation**

Council	Councillors	Representation (population / councillor)
Ashfield	12	3,966
Leichhardt	12	5,147
Marrickville	12	8,597
Inner West Council	15	14,168



## Risks arising from a de-amalgamation

There are a number of significant potential financial and non-financial risks arising from the particular de-amalgamation that will need to be considered, including the following:

- Transition structure, approach and process for the de-amalgamation.
- Transitional costs may be more significant than identified with no funding source from NSW government.
- The efficiencies generated by Inner West Council and projected in this analysis may not be delivered by the new councils.
- The implementation costs may be higher.
- Decisions subsequent to the de-amalgamation may increase cost base of the de-amalgamated councils.
- Establishing a fully functioning new organisational structure given some skills are difficult to source in the current employment market.
- The cultural separation of the Inner West Council organisation may not go well resulting in low morale, increased staff turnover rate, etc. This would reduce business performance and prolong the time it takes for transition to effectively operating new councils.
- Service levels have risen across the merged council and community dissatisfaction may occur if services are returned original levels.
- The financial performance of the de-amalgamated merged council is less than that modelled, resulting in the need to either reduce services, find efficiency gains and/or increase rates to address the operating deficit.

The risks from a three council de-amalgamation of Inner West Council may be lower considering that Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils were operating successfully before the merger, however there are likely to be challenges associated with unpacking and establishing new service levels, organisational operating procedures, systems, processes, policies, plan and organisational behaviours.

While there are some minor differences in the three communities (growth, density and ethnicity), they also have many features in common (demographic, economic and employment profiles). The relatively similar community of interest profiles suggest the risks in separating the communities are lower than they might otherwise be, but also the differences are not significant enough to make the Inner West Council less effective delivering services to three constituent councils.

Perhaps the largest risk arises from the fact that the future councils, who will make many of these key decisions, are yet to be elected. Their political alignment, policy program and priorities will not be known for some time and may impact on the realisation of planned benefits.

The Queensland de-amalgamations that took place in 2014 provide an insight into organisational dynamics. Those organisations experienced significant redundancies and staff displacement during the transfer process from the originating council to the new councils. Those redundancies occurred through voluntary and forced processes as the newly formed council ran as lean as possible for the first year or two after establishment.



## Apportionment of revenues and expenses under de-amalgamation

This report’s starting point for apportionment of Inner West Council revenues and expenses between the three proposed new councils, namely Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville, has been based on a resumption of the last pre-amalgamation operational structure, modelled through to 2022/23 as a central assumption.

This modelling has accounted for the changes in operating performance that would have occurred in the absence of the merger, including:

- indexation of costs and revenues
- depreciation of the pre-existing assets (as per 2014/15 Financial Statements)
- paydown of pre-existing debt (as per 2014/15 Financial Statements).

Our analysis has modelled growth of revenues and expenses from the assumed date of de-amalgamation on the basis that current Inner West service levels will be maintained within each of the three de-amalgamated councils. We have therefore made specific adjustments to the indexed pre-merger revenue and expenses of each council, to account for decisions taken by Inner West Council during the period of amalgamation, including:

- changes in services levels that have been implemented by Inner West Council
- new/additional compliance requirements that have come into force since the 2016 merger
- capital expenditure and asset renewals delivered
- additional debt.

In order to distribute these Inner West revenue and expense changes amongst the three proposed de-amalgamated councils, we have developed a range of distribution approaches appropriate to each class of revenue and expense change. For some categories of revenue and expense, there may be various methodologies for apportionment that could be reasonably justified. We have sought to align the basis for distribution of revenues and expenses with the primary driver of the magnitude of the change. These are summarised in the table of distribution approaches on the following page.



## Distribution approaches

Table 9 Distribution approaches

Basis of distribution	Distribution approach	Sample of changes
<b>Population</b>	Inner West costs allocated pro-rata to NSW Planning's 2016 reported population of each former council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes to fees and charges</li> <li>• Emergency Services Levy introduction</li> <li>• Changes to library operating costs and similar front line service delivery costs</li> </ul>
<b>Rate assessments</b>	Allocated based on rate assessment numbers of each council based on 2016 financial year statements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IT costs of de-amalgamation</li> <li>• Audit costs</li> <li>• Back of house services</li> </ul>
<b>Allocated entirely to a specific council</b>	To an individual council where a service change solely impacts one council.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ashfield Aquatic Centre debt and staffing</li> <li>• Leichhardt Park Child Care Centre</li> <li>• Yirran Gumal ELC Steel Park</li> <li>• Harmonisation of service levels impacting individual councils (e.g. verge mowing)</li> </ul>
<b>Per council</b>	Allocated based on same cost/service change regardless of size.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate infrastructure - branding, policy development, etc</li> <li>• Integrated planning and reporting development</li> <li>• Community engagement costs</li> </ul>
<b>Proportion</b>	Based on operational requirements of the service.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New/increased animal service</li> <li>• New/increased fire safety service</li> <li>• New/increase building certification service</li> </ul>
<b>Staff numbers</b>	Allocated by former council staff numbers for the 2016 financial year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redundancy and recruitment costs</li> <li>• Software licence costs</li> </ul>

For the purposes of estimating the financial position of the three post-de-amalgamation councils, we have also assumed that each council will operate independently. Future decisions made by the new councils could change the operating model for each of the three individual councils, such as adopting shared service arrangements between de-amalgamated councils. For the purpose of this analysis, we have assumed the proposal is to return the councils to the shape and form that existed prior to the Inner West merger.

We have undertaken some sensitivity testing, by applying the rate assessment and population distribution approaches to the total net ongoing costs of the proposed demerger and compared this to application of all distribution approaches detailed in the above table (refer to Appendix C). The use of the population and rate assessment approaches equalise the distribution rather than reflecting the relative changes in services/obligations for each of the proposed councils. Therefore, we have used the distribution approach detailed in the table above.



## One-off de-amalgamation costs

For comparative purposes of one-off and ongoing de-amalgamation costs, as referenced in Inner West Council’s report of 24 May 2021, a research paper titled ‘De-amalgamation in action: The Queensland Experience’ published in 2014,<sup>13</sup> estimated the cost of demerger per ratepayer. The report indicates the cost of demerger per ratepayer for Noosa at \$260 per ratepayer in the first year and \$142 per year per ratepayer thereafter and for Livingstone Shire at \$429 per ratepayer in the first year and \$192 per year per ratepayer thereafter. Applying these costs to the rate base of 79,500 rateable properties for Inner West Council, this would equate to an initial year cost ranging from \$20.7 million to \$34.1 million and an annual cost ranging from \$11.3 million to \$15.2 million per year. It is noted Council included these costs in its resolution proposing this analysis.

The Stimpson & Co report<sup>14</sup> estimated establishment/transition costs of six options, for the proposed reorganisation of Wellington region in New Zealand, that ranged from \$25.5 million to \$127 million.

The indicative estimated net costs for the proposed de-amalgamation are:

- one-off de-amalgamation costs - \$26.2 million
- ongoing costs and benefits net - \$22.1 million.

These costs are largely within the ranges of the demerger costs associated with the Queensland demerger and Wellington reorganisation, noting additional costs for new and expended compliance requirements of councils, and therefore are reasonable to be used for comparative impact analysis of the de-amalgamation proposal for Inner West Council.

In relation to external funding of the de-amalgamation costs, currently it is very unclear, what, if any, of these costs would be eligible for funding. The *Local Government Amendment Act 2021* does make provisions for the NSW Government to fund the cost of a de-amalgamation, but the eligible costs or grant funding levels have not been determined as yet. Comparative assessment of a level of funding has been undertaken.

Through our research, reviewing and validating public and Council information, de-amalgamated council case studies, industry assessment and comparison, we have identified and documented the major one-off de-amalgamation costs for the proposed three councils.

Following is a summary of the expenditure for the one-off de-amalgamation costs.

<sup>13</sup> Queensland Audit Office, 2015. *Results of audit: Local government entities 2013–14, Report 16: 2014–15*, Brisbane.

<sup>14</sup> Stimpson & Co, 2014. *Report to Local Government Commission on Wellington Reorganisation Transition Costs*, p.3.



Figure 3 One-off costs and benefits summary

Income Statement	One-off cost and benefits summary			
	'000s			
	Ashfield	Leichhardt	Marrickville	Total
<b>Total income</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>Expenses</b>				
Borrowing costs	0	0	0	0
Employee benefits	\$1,316	\$2,174	\$3,920	\$8,410
Gains & losses on disposal	0	0	0	0
Depreciation & amortisation	0	0	0	0
All other expenses	\$3,788	\$6,218	\$7,825	\$17,832
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$5,105</b>	<b>\$9,392</b>	<b>\$11,745</b>	<b>\$26,242</b>
<b>Operating result</b>	<b>(\$5,105)</b>	<b>(\$9,392)</b>	<b>(\$11,745)</b>	<b>(\$26,242)</b>

### Employee benefits

This represents the redundancies for Inner West council staff as a result of de-amalgamation. As evidenced by other de-amalgamations, voluntary redundancies occur for a range of reasons. For an Inner West de-amalgamation, staff will have the choice to decline an offer of position in the de-amalgamated councils and take redundancy. This could occur if the position offered will change the size, complexity, satisfaction and pay levels of their current role. Other staff may choose not to accept a role due to personal situations. The Queensland Audit Office (QAO) prepared a report<sup>15</sup> that included an estimate of 138 redundancies resulting from four mergers. The average redundancy was 11.5% of the total positions for the separating councils. This number could be higher than reported, as Queensland Governments Open Data Portal<sup>16</sup> counts a loss of a further 472 FTE staff positions (in addition to the 138 identified redundancies by the QAO) between those the councils collectively reported in 2013 and after separation in 2014. The Inner West merger had a redundancy rate of 13.4% of the total positions, excluding executive position, portioned between managers - 31% and others 69%.

It is difficult to estimate redundancy levels, however it is estimated it could be in the range of 7.5% to 13.4%. At 7.5% the estimated redundancy costs are \$6.6 million, at 11.5% - \$10.2 million and at 13.4% - \$11.8 million. For the proposed de-amalgamation, we have taken a conservative redundancy rate of 9.5%. The indicative total redundancy costs are \$8.4 million.

<sup>15</sup> Queensland Audit Office, *Results of audit*.

<sup>16</sup> Queensland Government, *Open Data Portal*. Retrieved from <https://www.data.qld.gov.au/dataset/c7c0c31e-a844-480d-bf8e-4b689179a5cf/resource/9e81cb82-d71e-4c2d-ad2b-54a053cfeadf/download/qld-local-government-comparative-information-report-cdc-personnel.csv>.



### Other expenses (includes materials and contracts)

Following is an explanation and rationale for the major one-off de-amalgamation costs.

#### Information technology

There will be a requirement to establish three information technology and communication (ITC) systems for the de-amalgamated councils. We have assumed a cloud-based solution, using Technology One SaaS as the enterprise software solution. We have used and assessed a combination of information from the Inner West Council merger, advice from an industry provider who works for over 100 councils across Australia, including with the Technology1 solution, along with indicative pricing for Technology One licencing and implementation. The indicative cost for the ITC solution and implementation for the three councils is \$12.5 million. The 2020 *Report on Local Government*<sup>17</sup> highlighted a number of high-risk ITC issues including cyber security, controls and gaps in user access management processes and system capacity for remote working.

#### Election costs

Council election costs for three councils is based on an IPART report<sup>18</sup> where they "found that the NSWEC's proposed costs for administering local government elections in September 2020 are greater than efficient levels". It proposed costs of \$12.72 per elector (2020-21). This is 45% higher than the cost of administering elections in 2016 and 2017, and 96% higher than the cost of administering elections in 2012. Considering the significant increase in costs, including inflation, from the 2012 elections, an allowance of a 75% increase in 2012 election costs based on 20/21 costs has been included. This equates to \$825,000 allocated based an estimated number of voters of 166,900.

#### De-amalgamation transition costs

For the orderly creation and transition to the three new entities, with the appropriate authority, experience, knowledge and capacity, it is best practice to establish a de-amalgamation transition process where an administrator or a transition committee of some kind can make the necessary transition decisions required for the new councils to be fully operational on day one. It is noted for the Inner West merger, an administrator was in place for some 16 months. Broadly the responsibilities would include recruiting the new general manager, ICT systems scope and procurement and, in conjunction with the new general manager, developing an organisational structure, appointing key staff, participating in the staff relocation approach, liaising with government agencies, establishment of the governance and business frameworks and key policies for each new council allocation. There are a large number of activities that will need to occur for the new council to be fully operational and effective from day one. A transition process will also be required to 'wind up' the Inner West Council, handover services and functions to the new councils, manage staff redundancies and transfer information and records and ensure the processes put in place by the Inner West Council are transferred to the new councils to continue or reshape.

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<sup>17</sup> Audit Office of NSW, *Report on Local Government*.

<sup>18</sup> Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal, 2019. *Review of local government election costs*.



For more specific examples of the proposed tasks to be undertaken, please refer to Appendix B. These were benchmarked against the Auckland Transition Agency (ATA) results 2009 for the proposed Wellington reorganisation in 2014, and the costs as estimated by Stimpson & Co.<sup>19</sup>

It could take some six to 12 months for the transition authority to complete their required responsibilities. The Stimpson & Co report estimates a nine-month period. Also noting the estimates for the transition tasks detailed in the Stimpson & Co report are dealt with elsewhere in this report. However, given the need for management of the establishment and distribution/allocation of services and resources to the new council, we have conservatively estimated the costs as \$1.8 million or \$200,000 per month for resources (establishment general manager and senior staff, consultants, recruitment costs and operational costs) to undertake these tasks, which has been included.

### Operational establishment costs

Other establishment requirements identified include rebranding, audio visual equipment and other installation, print rooms, salary systems, council policies, integrated planning and reporting documents, internal ombudsman services and community engagement. The indicative costs are estimated at \$1.5 million.

### Recruitment costs

Each of the new councils will need to undertake extensive recruitment for key executive, manager, coordinator, technical and other positions, to ensure the resources are available to manage and deliver on the new council service and governance requirements. The usual recruitment costs are between 12% – 18% of a position’s salary. The de-amalgamated councils will need to re-establish their organisational structures and FTEs to support service delivery and operational needs. Considering most current employees will transfer to one of the de-amalgamated councils, there will be an uplift in employee numbers and a level of redundancies to be recruited.

Recruitment costs will vary depending on number of positions and salary value. We have conservatively estimated that a third of the reinstated positions will attract recruitment costs at 15%, with an the indicate cost of \$1.2 million for the three councils.

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<sup>19</sup> Stimpson & Co, *Report to Local Government*.



## Ongoing costs and benefits allocation

The following table is a summary of the allocation of all changes to income, costs and services of Inner West Council that will be allocated to the proposed de-amalgamated councils, using the distribution approach detailed earlier in this report. The allocation is based on all councils having similar levels of service, along with new council obligations that were not in place prior to the Inner West merger.

Table 10 Ongoing costs and benefits summary

Income Statement	Ongoing cost and benefits summary			
	'000s			
	Ashfield	Leichhardt	Marrickville	Total distributed
<b>Income</b>				
Rates & annual charges	(\$1,276)	(\$1,971)	(\$4,053)	(\$7,300)
User fees & charges	\$3,693	\$1,320	(\$122)	\$4,891
Grants & contributions - operations	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Grants & contributions for capital	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Interest and investment income	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Gains from disposal assets	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other income	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$2,417</b>	<b>(\$651)</b>	<b>(\$4,175)</b>	<b>(\$2,409)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Borrowing costs	\$1,100	\$0	\$0	\$1,100
Employee benefits	\$4,836	\$1,989	\$900	\$7,724
Gains & losses on disposal	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Depreciation & amortisation	\$805	\$62	\$787	\$1,654
All other expenses	\$4,147	\$1,907	\$3,168	\$9,223
Total expenses	\$10,888	\$3,958	\$4,855	\$19,701
<b>Operating result</b>	<b>(\$8,471)</b>	<b>(\$4,609)</b>	<b>(\$9,030)</b>	<b>(\$22,110)</b>

Further to the summary information provided earlier in the report, the information below is a more detailed commentary for each of the above line items of the income statement for each of the de-amalgamated councils.

### Rates and annual charges

#### Rates

The three former councils have used the SRV process differently over the past decades, with these ratepayers experiencing rate increases as described in table on the following page. Inner West Council has not made an SRV application to date.



Table 11 History of special rate variations

Council	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Rate Peg:			2.80%	3.60%	3.40%	2.30%	2.40%	1.80%	1.50%	2.30%
<b>SRV, inclusive of rate peg:</b>										
Ashfield	7.50%						7.50%	8.20%	8.90%	9.30%
Leichhardt										
Marrickville							5.40%			

In addition to the 12-year time period shown in the table above, Marrickville Council was granted a 15-year temporary special rate variation in the 2005/06 financial year of 6.96% (including the rates peg amount), which expires on 30 June 2020. Inner West Council reduced its total general rates revenue by the cumulative value of the temporary increase, being \$1.5 million, from 1 July 2021.

The rate reduction of \$1.5 million has been allocated to the proposed Marrickville Council only.

### Annual charges

Inner West recently made the decision to reduce the domestic waste management charge. This has been incorporated into Council’s approved budget and Long Term Financial Plan. This represents a total income decrease of \$5.8 million and has been allocated to the new councils based on rate assessment numbers.

### User fees and charges

These changes are a combination of the COVID-19 impact on Inner West Council, with a reduction in income to 2019/20 of \$15.3 million, with recovery over the following three years.

In addition, there is an increase in user fees as a result of new services introduced, current services extended and some services ceasing due to contracts not being renewed. The net increase in fees and charges income is estimated at \$8.1 million.

For Ashfield, this is due to an increase in income from the new aquatic centre and increased building certification, companion animal and fire safety services.

For Leichardt, the change is as a result of the new Leichardt Park childcare facility, closure of the home maintenance service and an increase in the building certification, companion animal and fire safety services.

For Marrickville, the new Yirran Gumal ELC Steel Park, closure of Stanmore and Camdenville Outside School Hours Care services and increases in the building certification, companion animal and fire safety services have impacted fees and charges revenue.

### Borrowing costs

Inner West Council have borrowed money to fund the construction of Ashfield Aquatic Centre. This cost represents the commencing interest payment.



**Employee benefits**

The allocation of employee costs to the de-amalgamated councils is based on the change in services that were not in existence immediately prior to the merger. These include new, closed and changed services and rationalisation due to efficiency gains in processes and vacant positions, with an estimated net increase in cost of \$7.7 million.

In addition to the services detailed in the user fees and charges section immediately above, other changes include increased services for verge mowing, litter and weed control and harmonised salary system costs for Ashfield. There were very minimal other changes for Leichhardt and Marrickville, with Inner West achieving some efficiency gains in the back of office, library and civil works services that have been allocated to the three councils proportionally.

**Depreciation**

Additional depreciation costs of \$1.7 million have been generated through the construction of new buildings by Inner West Council to support some of the new and expanded services. These include the Ashfield Aquatic Centre, childcare facilities at Leichhardt and, for Marrickville, affordable housing, Yirran Gumal ELC and the new library.

**Other expenses (includes material and contracts)**

These costs are a combination of new expenses that were not in existence prior to the Inner West merger, expenses to support the delivery of the new and increased service levels and decrease in costs for those services that have closed or where there have been efficiency gains. The indicative net estimated increase is \$9.2 million.

In addition to those services detailed above in the user fees and charges and employee benefits sections (which mostly have other expenses as part of the service delivery costs), there are a number of other expenses incurred by Inner West Council that were not present at the time of merger. These include:

- Emergency Service Levy
- new ITC operational requirements such as, disaster recovery, WIFI and cyber security
- modernised ICT solutions including enhancements to ICT maturity and reliability in the areas of desktop replacement, data centre, network and communications and switches
- internal ombudsman services
- community engagement resources including media monitoring, online systems and communication tools
- new community arts program
- refugee welcome resources
- enhanced graffiti resources
- Local Planning Panels
- Design Review Panels
- asset maintenance for the new building and recreation assets.



The consequential impact of the total net de-amalgamation costs per rateable assessment is illustrated in the following table, with some high-level sensitivity assessment of the one-off de-amalgamation costs.

**Table 12 Total net de-amalgamation costs per rateable assessment**

Indicative de-amalgamation costs	Ashfield		Leichhardt		Marrickville	
	0%	50%	0%	50%	0%	50%
Transition funding	0%	50%	0%	50%	0%	50%
One-off transition costs - '000s	\$5,105	\$2,553	\$9,392	\$4,696	\$11,745	\$5,873
Recurring costs - '000s	\$8,471		\$4,609		\$9,030	
Rate assessments	17,436	17,436	25,438	25,438	36,678	36,678
<b>Cost/rate assessment</b>						
One-off transition costs	\$293	\$146	\$369	\$185	\$320	\$160
Recurring costs	\$486		\$181		\$246	

For Inner West, 41% of the estimated merger costs were funded by government. Using a 50% funding scenario, for de-amalgamation, the above table indicates a total reduction of \$13.1 million and a subsequent decrease in the cost per rateable assessment. The table separates the net one-off and ongoing de-amalgamation cost per rateable assessment for each council.

### Financial analysis

Financial viability and long-term sustainability are key drivers for all local government councils' ability to deliver the range services that their communities expect currently and into the future.

The modelling incorporates the one-off de-amalgamation costs in year one (2022/23) along with the relevant ongoing costs and benefits and is forecast over ten years, as detailed in the early sections of this report, to project the financial sustainability of the new councils. Councils with a significant funding gap are financially unsustainable (where expenses exceed income) and need to develop an improvement plan to close the gap.

### Funding gap

Having allocated the de-amalgamation costs and benefits in accordance with the distribution approach detailed in the report, the estimated projected operating result for each council is detailed on the following page. The first year, 2022/23, includes the one-off de-amalgamation cost for each council. For each council there is a year-on-year funding gap that would need to be addressed.



Table 13 Ashfield Council Income Statement ten-year forecast

Ashfield	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
<b>Income from continuing operations</b>										
Rates and annual charges	37,270	38,147	39,118	40,122	41,189	42,404	43,654	45,067	46,574	47,899
User charges and fees	8,015	8,320	8,635	8,943	9,260	9,587	9,925	10,274	10,669	11,077
Interest and investment revenue	1,062	259	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other revenues	2,630	2,696	2,763	2,832	2,903	2,976	3,050	3,126	3,205	3,285
Grants and contributions - Operating	2,447	2,508	2,571	2,635	2,701	2,769	2,838	2,909	2,982	3,056
Grants and contributions - Capital	184	184	184	184	184	184	184	184	184	184
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>51,609</b>	<b>52,114</b>	<b>53,272</b>	<b>54,716</b>	<b>56,237</b>	<b>57,920</b>	<b>59,651</b>	<b>61,560</b>	<b>63,614</b>	<b>65,502</b>
<b>Expenses from continuing operations</b>										
Employee benefits and oncosts	27,476	28,163	28,867	29,588	30,328	31,086	31,864	32,660	33,477	34,314
Borrowing costs	1,161	1,114	1,064	1,014	964	911	854	803	743	681
Materials and contracts	5,105	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation and amortisation	7,757	8,108	8,460	8,806	9,159	9,498	9,844	10,194	10,549	10,813
Other expenses	20,552	21,066	21,593	22,133	22,686	23,253	23,834	24,430	25,041	25,667
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>62,051</b>	<b>58,451</b>	<b>59,983</b>	<b>61,542</b>	<b>63,137</b>	<b>64,748</b>	<b>66,396</b>	<b>68,087</b>	<b>69,810</b>	<b>71,474</b>
<b>Net Operating Result</b>	<b>(10,442)</b>	<b>(6,337)</b>	<b>(6,711)</b>	<b>(6,826)</b>	<b>(6,900)</b>	<b>(6,828)</b>	<b>(6,745)</b>	<b>(6,527)</b>	<b>(6,196)</b>	<b>(5,973)</b>
<b>Net operating result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes</b>	<b>(10,626)</b>	<b>(6,521)</b>	<b>(6,895)</b>	<b>(7,010)</b>	<b>(7,084)</b>	<b>(7,012)</b>	<b>(6,929)</b>	<b>(6,711)</b>	<b>(6,380)</b>	<b>(6,157)</b>

Table 14 Leichhardt Council Income Statement ten-year forecast

Leichhardt	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
<b>Income from continuing operations</b>										
Rates and annual charges	57,353	58,708	60,209	61,757	63,403	65,278	67,206	69,385	71,712	73,759
User charges and fees	19,794	20,480	21,189	21,885	22,603	23,344	24,107	24,894	25,769	26,672
Interest and investment revenue	1,008	323	53	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other revenues	6,752	6,921	7,094	7,271	7,453	7,640	7,831	8,026	8,227	8,433
Grants and contributions - Operating	6,681	6,848	7,019	7,195	7,375	7,559	7,748	7,942	8,140	8,344
Grants and contributions - Capital	2,687	2,687	2,687	2,687	2,687	2,687	2,687	2,687	2,687	2,687
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>94,275</b>	<b>95,967</b>	<b>98,251</b>	<b>100,796</b>	<b>103,522</b>	<b>106,508</b>	<b>109,578</b>	<b>112,933</b>	<b>116,535</b>	<b>119,895</b>
<b>Expenses from continuing operations</b>										
Employee benefits and oncosts	51,264	52,545	53,859	55,205	56,586	58,000	59,450	60,936	62,460	64,021
Borrowing costs	151	157	152	157	162	167	162	185	180	175
Materials and contracts	9,392	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation and amortisation	11,098	11,502	11,883	12,277	12,670	13,062	13,461	13,868	14,285	14,642
Other expenses	33,058	33,884	34,732	35,600	36,490	37,402	38,337	39,296	40,278	41,285
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>104,962</b>	<b>98,088</b>	<b>100,625</b>	<b>103,240</b>	<b>105,907</b>	<b>108,631</b>	<b>111,410</b>	<b>114,285</b>	<b>117,202</b>	<b>120,123</b>
<b>Net Operating Result</b>	<b>(10,687)</b>	<b>(2,121)</b>	<b>(2,374)</b>	<b>(2,444)</b>	<b>(2,386)</b>	<b>(2,124)</b>	<b>(1,832)</b>	<b>(1,352)</b>	<b>(667)</b>	<b>(228)</b>
<b>Net operating result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes</b>	<b>(13,374)</b>	<b>(4,808)</b>	<b>(5,061)</b>	<b>(5,131)</b>	<b>(5,073)</b>	<b>(4,811)</b>	<b>(4,519)</b>	<b>(4,039)</b>	<b>(3,354)</b>	<b>(2,915)</b>



Table 15 Marrickville Council Income Statement ten-year forecast

Marrickville	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
<b>Income from continuing operations</b>										
Rates and annual charges	71,534	73,354	75,358	77,383	79,534	81,971	84,476	87,297	90,375	93,110
User charges and fees	19,179	19,918	20,681	21,424	22,191	22,982	23,800	24,644	25,602	26,593
Interest and investment revenue	979	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other revenues	15,021	15,396	15,781	16,176	16,580	16,995	17,419	17,855	18,301	18,759
Grants and contributions - Operating	6,682	6,849	7,020	7,196	7,376	7,560	7,749	7,943	8,142	8,345
Grants and contributions - Capital	5,969	5,969	5,969	5,969	5,969	5,969	5,969	5,969	5,969	5,969
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>119,364</b>	<b>121,486</b>	<b>124,810</b>	<b>128,148</b>	<b>131,650</b>	<b>135,478</b>	<b>139,414</b>	<b>143,707</b>	<b>148,389</b>	<b>152,776</b>
<b>Expenses from continuing operations</b>										
Employee benefits and oncosts	63,216	64,796	66,416	68,076	69,778	71,523	73,311	75,144	77,022	78,948
Borrowing costs	58	61	59	61	63	64	63	71	70	68
Materials and contracts	11,745	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation and amortisation	14,448	14,974	15,471	15,992	16,505	17,020	17,542	18,076	18,621	19,087
Other expenses	50,375	51,635	52,926	54,249	55,605	56,995	58,420	59,880	61,377	62,912
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>139,843</b>	<b>131,465</b>	<b>134,871</b>	<b>138,378</b>	<b>141,950</b>	<b>145,602</b>	<b>149,335</b>	<b>153,171</b>	<b>157,090</b>	<b>161,014</b>
<b>Net Operating Result</b>	<b>(20,479)</b>	<b>(9,980)</b>	<b>(10,062)</b>	<b>(10,230)</b>	<b>(10,301)</b>	<b>(10,125)</b>	<b>(9,922)</b>	<b>(9,464)</b>	<b>(8,701)</b>	<b>(8,239)</b>
<b>Net operating result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes</b>	<b>(26,448)</b>	<b>(15,949)</b>	<b>(16,031)</b>	<b>(16,199)</b>	<b>(16,270)</b>	<b>(16,094)</b>	<b>(15,891)</b>	<b>(15,433)</b>	<b>(14,670)</b>	<b>(14,208)</b>

Table 16 Inner West Council Income Statement ten-year forecast

Inner West	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
<b>Income from continuing operations</b>											
Rates and annual charges	161,162	164,385	167,855	171,530	175,552	179,804	184,299	189,336	194,510	200,280	206,222
User charges and fees	45,071	46,243	47,399	48,584	49,798	51,043	52,320	53,628	54,968	56,342	57,751
Interest and investment revenue	4,205	3,552	4,055	3,975	4,197	4,442	4,799	5,212	5,633	6,257	7,063
Other revenues	22,342	22,923	23,496	24,083	24,685	25,303	25,935	26,584	27,248	27,929	28,628
Grants and contributions - Operating	10,006	10,266	10,523	10,786	11,056	11,332	11,615	11,906	12,203	12,508	12,821
Grants and contributions - Capital	25,054	25,054	25,054	25,054	25,054	25,054	25,054	25,054	25,054	25,054	25,054
Net gain from the disposal of assets	(1,606)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>266,234</b>	<b>272,424</b>	<b>278,382</b>	<b>284,012</b>	<b>290,343</b>	<b>296,978</b>	<b>304,022</b>	<b>311,719</b>	<b>319,617</b>	<b>328,371</b>	<b>337,539</b>
<b>Expenses from continuing operations</b>											
Employee benefits and oncosts	120,930	124,453	127,565	130,754	134,023	137,373	140,807	144,328	147,936	151,634	155,425
Borrowing costs	979	868	788	720	675	635	593	550	507	462	417
Materials and contracts	55,699	57,036	58,405	59,806	61,242	62,711	64,217	65,758	67,336	68,952	70,607
Depreciation and amortisation	31,983	31,590	32,365	33,069	33,783	34,487	35,172	35,860	36,553	37,252	37,802
Other expenses	35,984	36,920	37,843	38,789	39,758	40,752	41,771	42,815	43,886	44,983	46,108
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>245,575</b>	<b>250,867</b>	<b>256,964</b>	<b>263,138</b>	<b>269,481</b>	<b>275,958</b>	<b>282,560</b>	<b>289,311</b>	<b>296,217</b>	<b>303,283</b>	<b>310,358</b>
<b>Net Operating Result</b>	<b>20,659</b>	<b>21,556</b>	<b>21,418</b>	<b>20,875</b>	<b>20,862</b>	<b>21,020</b>	<b>21,462</b>	<b>22,408</b>	<b>23,400</b>	<b>25,088</b>	<b>27,181</b>
<b>Net operating result before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes</b>	<b>(4,395)</b>	<b>(3,498)</b>	<b>(3,636)</b>	<b>(4,179)</b>	<b>(4,192)</b>	<b>(4,034)</b>	<b>(3,592)</b>	<b>(2,646)</b>	<b>(1,654)</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>2,127</b>

The funding gap estimates accumulated ten-year shortfall of income over expenses (operating deficit), it is the amount of funds required to fund the operational requirements of council. Following is the indicative ten-year funding gap for each council.

Table 17 Indicative ten-year funding gaps

Council	Ten-year funding gap '000s
Ashfield	\$71,300
Leichhardt	\$53,800
Marrickville	\$167,000
Inner West	\$25,300



The net present value (NPV), using a real discount rate of 4.7%,<sup>20</sup> has been calculated on the net de-amalgamation costs over the ten-year forecast period and are detailed below.

Table 18 Net present values

Council	Ashfield '000s	Leichhardt '000s	Marrickville '000s	Inner West '000s
Net present value	(\$50,000)	(\$39,300)	(\$118,700)	(\$19,500)

The de-amalgamated councils have a significant funding gap and are financially unsustainable, requiring an improvement plan to close the gap. This is usually a combination of council identified improvements, reduction in service levels, asset rationalisation and an SRV. For the purpose of this report, we have calculated a one-off nominal SRV amount that closes the gap, creating sustainable councils.

The following table details the proposed SRV for each council and the impact on rateable assessments for each council.

Table 19 Proposed SRVs and impact on rateable assessments

Council	Funding gap  Ten-year gap '000s	SRV		Rate assessments	\$ increase per rateable assessment
		%	'000s		
Ashfield	\$71,300	19%	\$6,907	17,437	\$396
Leichhardt	\$53,800	10%	\$5,600	25,438	\$220
Marrickville	\$167,000	22%	\$15,300	36,678	\$417
Inner West	\$25,300	5%	\$6,300	79,553	\$79

There are a range of potential SRV scenarios that can be applied over a number of years to reduce the immediate burden on ratepayers. This would be a matter for each council.

The estimated backlog ratios for all councils will require attention through the development and review of asset management plans. Given the level of the renewal expenditure detailed in the table below, additional investment will be required to increase the renewal expense ratio and therefore improve the asset backlog ratio for all councils.

Table 20 Building and infrastructure asset renewal ratios

Building and infrastructure asset renewal ratio	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Marrickville	129%	94%	88%	80%	74%	76%	81%	64%	62%	60%
Leichhardt	125%	95%	88%	81%	76%	76%	79%	65%	63%	61%
Ashfield	129%	95%	85%	80%	71%	67%	65%	53%	51%	50%
Inner West	132%	98%	91%	84%	77%	77%	80%	65%	62%	61%
Target	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

<sup>20</sup> Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal, 2021. *Local government discount rate Facts Sheet*.



**Impact on ratepayers**

Detailed modelling of the changes in rates in a de-amalgamation is very difficult to do with any degree of accuracy, as there is a need to establish new rating structures and model each of the 79,500 assessments. However, as a means of understanding the potential impact of the de-amalgamation, an estimate of the average rate for each council, using a rate peg amount of 2%, has been calculated.

As a result of applying the SRV, a high-level assessment on the average rates indicates that the average rate increases for all councils are as detailed below.

**Table 21 Average rates**

Council	Current average rate	SRV average rate	Increase
Ashfield	\$ 1,723	\$2,044	\$321
Leichhardt	\$1,836	\$2,016	\$180
Marrickville	\$1,376	\$1,673	\$297
Inner West	\$1,598	\$1,676	\$78

The average rate increase for each council is lower than the increased cost per rateable assessment. The financial forecast modelling takes into account, amongst other things, a factor for growth over the ten-year period, thus reducing the level of SRV required to fund the de-amalgamation costs.

The following are the average rate calculations for residential and business categories, with a comparison of average rates of the four councils.

The graphs below are the average residential rates without the SRV and with the SRV and, as expected, average rates increase. The year one increase in the average residential rate because of the SRV is Ashfield 18.6%, Leichhardt 9.8%, Marrickville 21.6% and Inner West 4.9%.

**Figure 4 Residential average income without SRV**

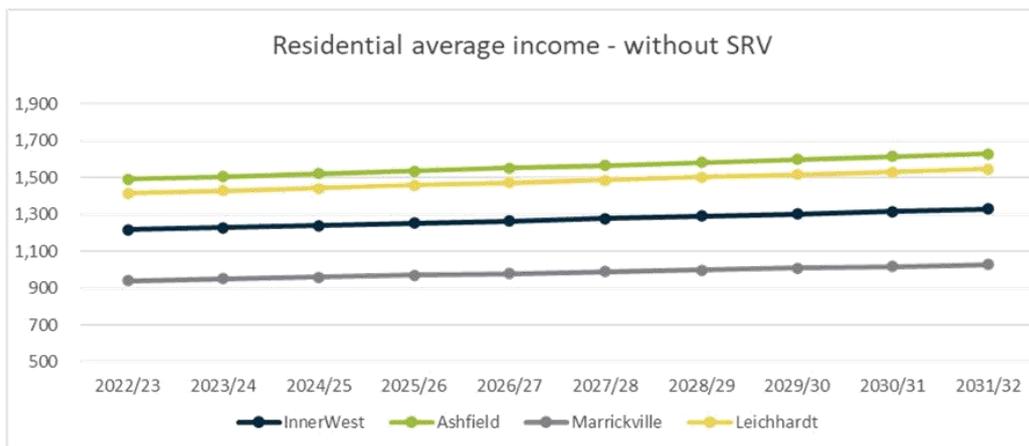
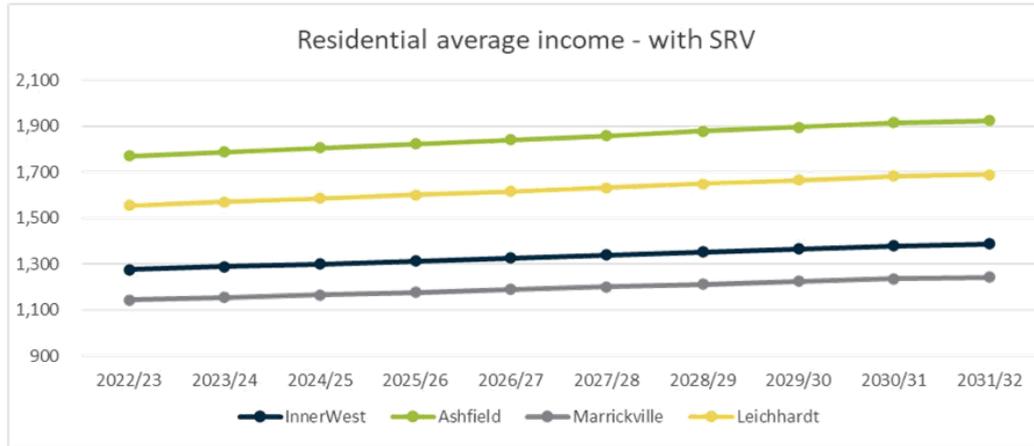




Figure 5 Residential average income with SRV



Following are the average business rates without the SRV and with the SRV.

Figure 6 Business average income without SRV

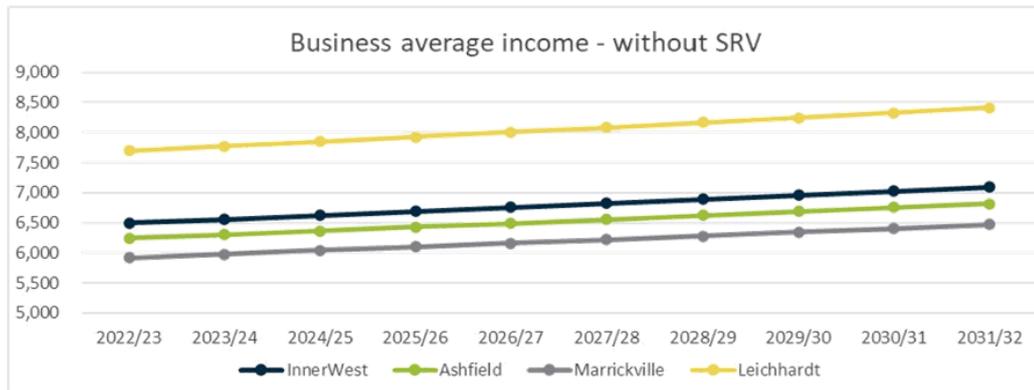
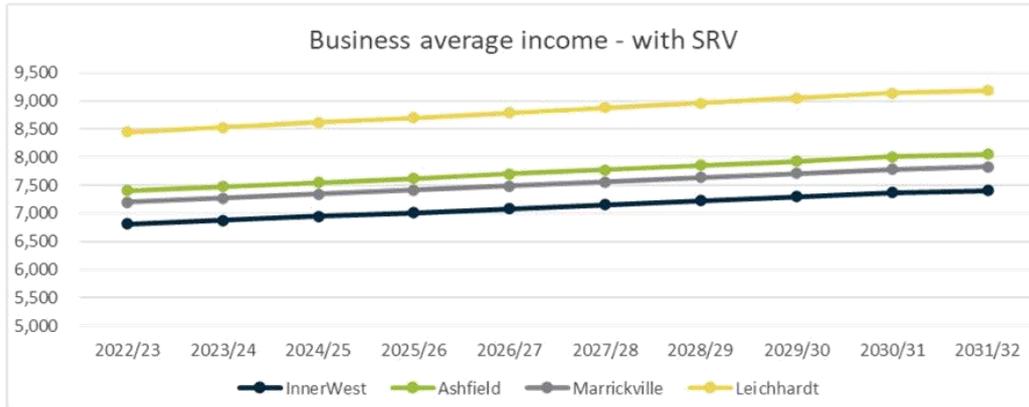




Figure 7 Business average income with SRV



The year one increase in the average business rate because of the SRV is Ashfield 15.7%, Leichhardt 8.9%, Marrickville 17.7% and Inner West 4.7%.

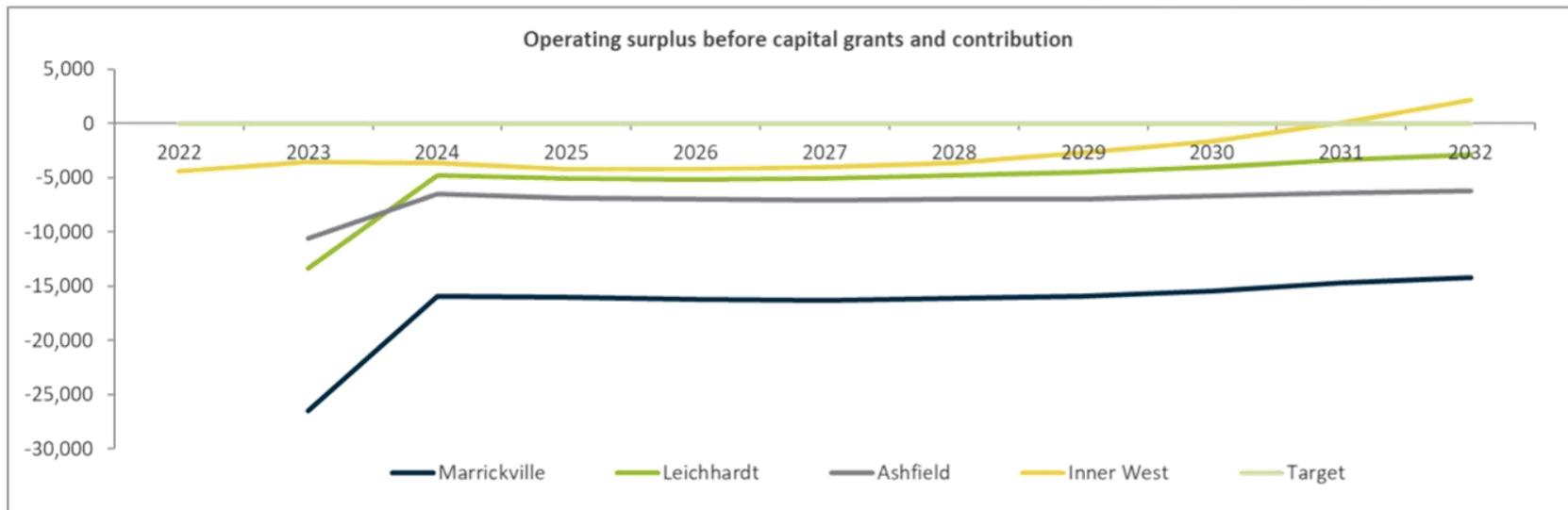


**Performance measures**

The performance of each council is measured against Office of Local Government performance indicators. Following are the estimated performance results.

As illustrated in the graph below, all four councils are largely unsustainable with operating deficits across the ten-year forecast period, with the exception of Inner West forecasting a surplus in 2030/31. Year-on-year deficits have an adverse impact on councils' financial capacity to fund recurring expenditure and projects.

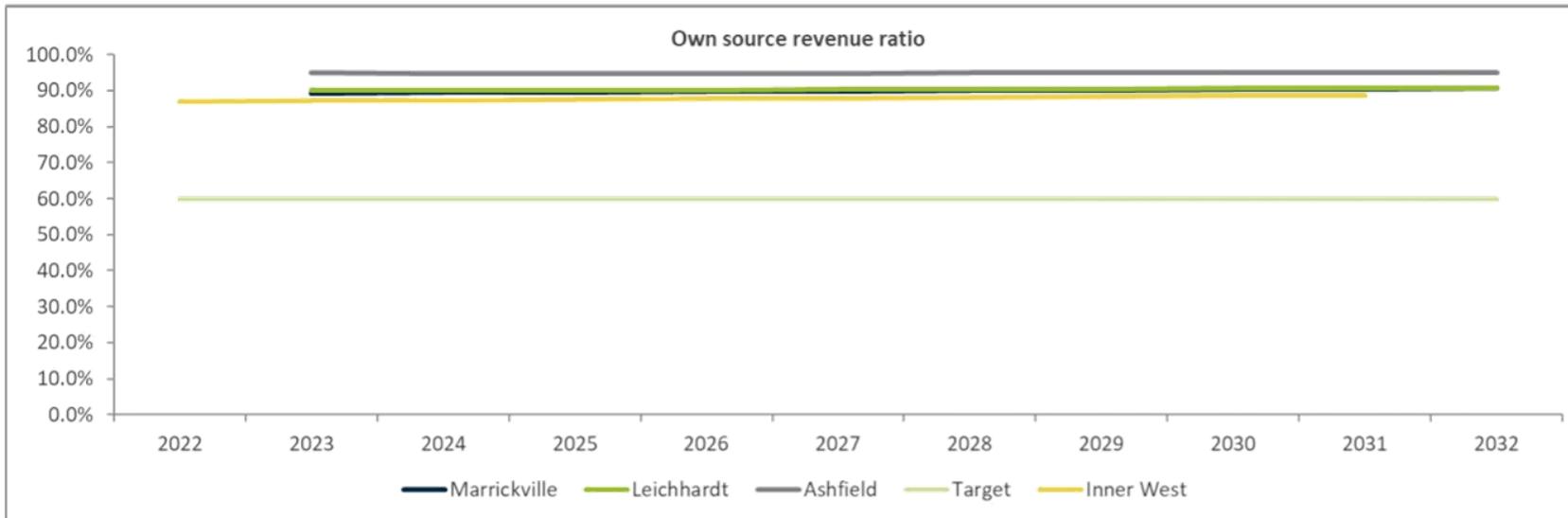
**Figure 8 Operating surplus before capital grants and contributions**





As shown below, all councils exceed the performance target of greater than 60% indicating the degree upon which councils rely on external funding sources such as operating grants and contributions.

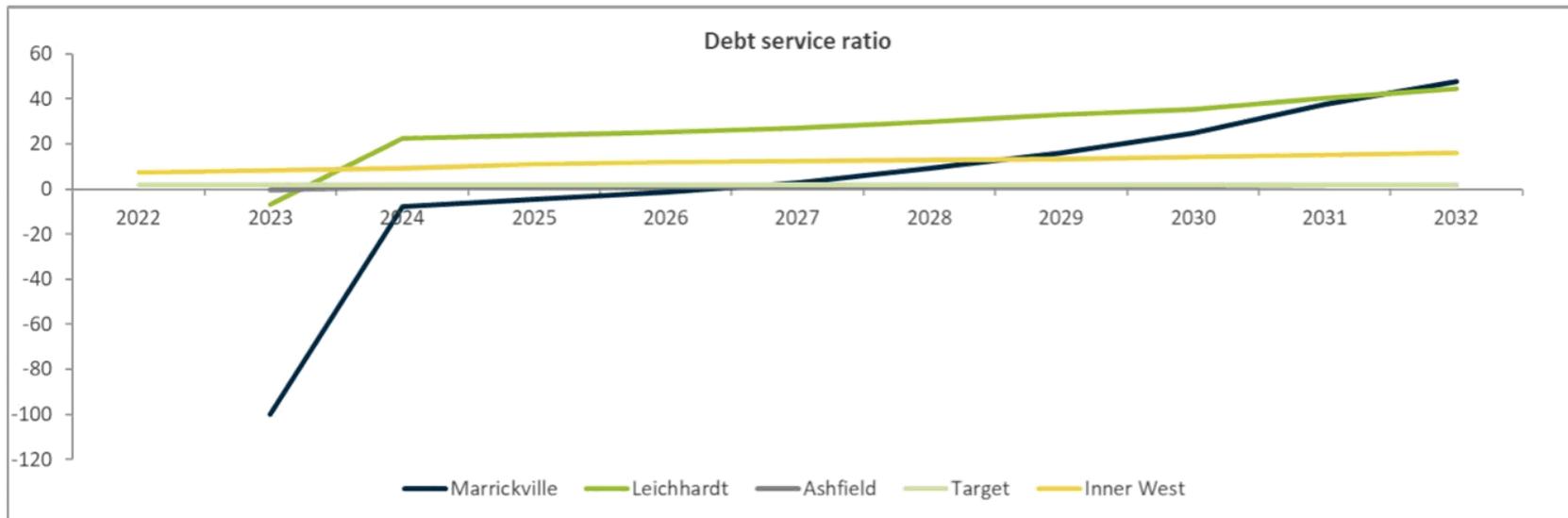
Figure 9 Own source revenue





The graph below measures the operating cash available to service debt, with performance target of greater than two times. There some anomalies in the initial years for the de-amalgamated councils, with the transition costs and increase services greater than the operating cash.

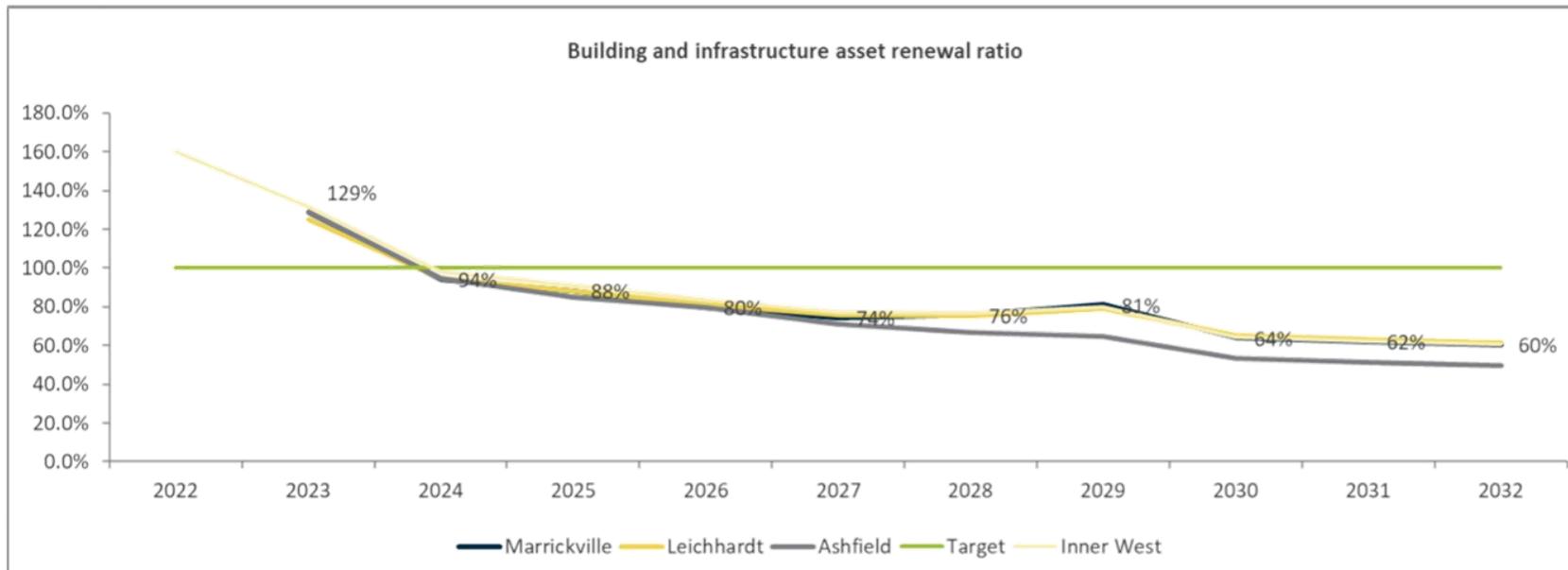
Figure 10 Debt service ratio





The ratio below assesses the rate at which assets are being renewed against the rate they are depreciating. All councils are substantially below the performance indicator of 100%. This has an adverse impact on the condition of assets exponentially over a period of time. Councils will need to increase asset renewal expenditure as part of developing, reviewing and implementing asset management plans.

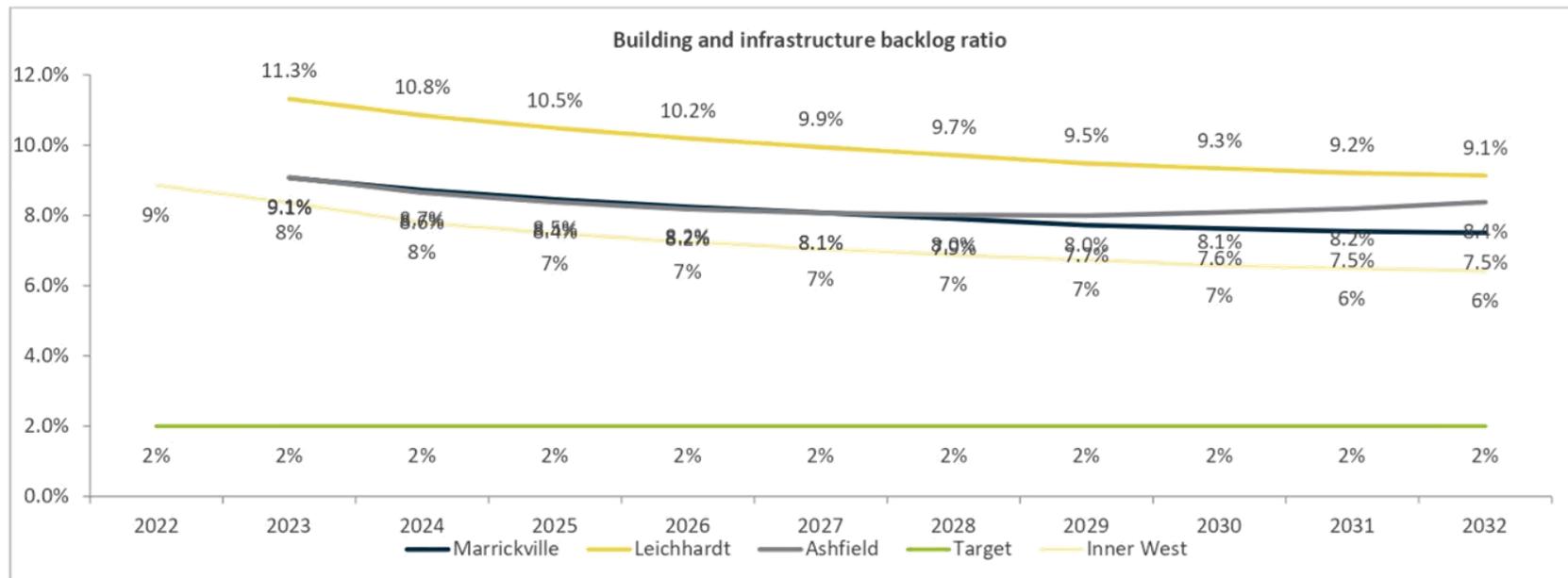
Figure 11 Asset renewal ratio





It is evident from the graph below that all councils have an unacceptable backlog ratio that need to be addressed. The infrastructure backlog performance target is 2%, which can be achieved through asset management strategies and increase investment in the asset renewal program.

Figure 12 Asset backlog ratio

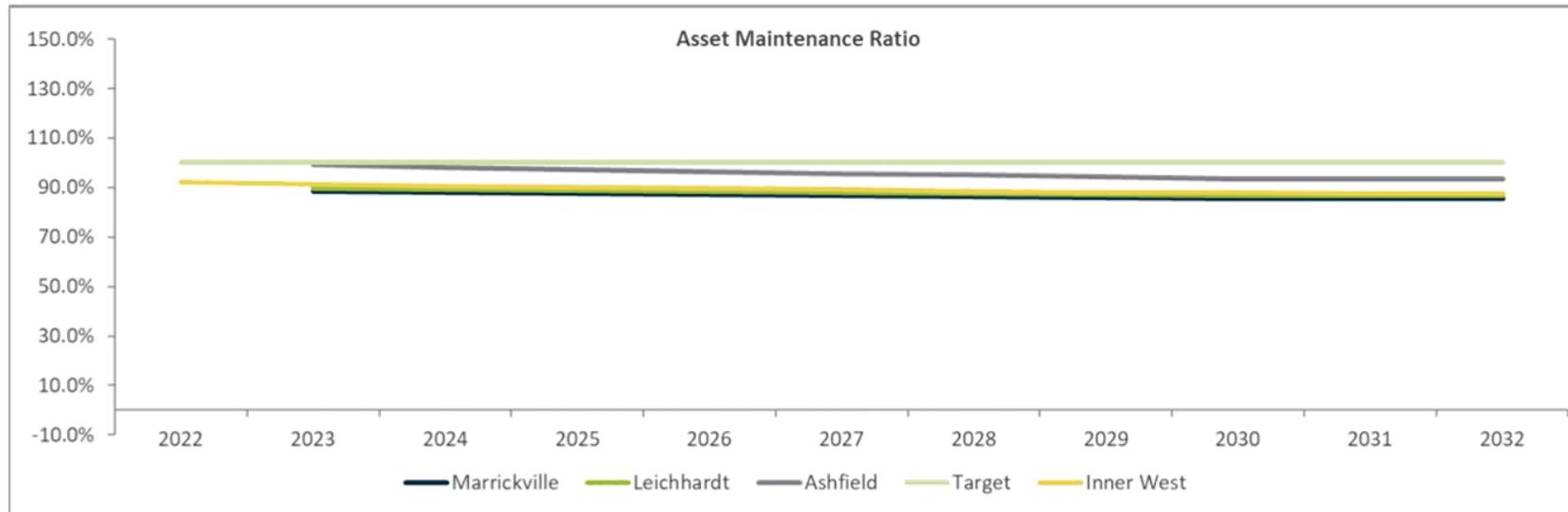




The asset maintenance ratio compares actual versus required annual asset maintenance. Ashfield has a slightly higher ratio, ideally all need to be closer to the performance target of 100%.

This can be address addressed by increasing expenditure on asset maintenance in accordance with asset management plans.

Figure 13 Asset maintenance ratio





## Social analysis

### Community satisfaction

The Inner West Council conducts community research annually to understand and identify community priorities for the Inner West and identify the community's overall level of satisfaction with Council performance. An independent survey of 1,002 residents was undertaken by Micromex Research between 4 - 25 June 2021 and the results were reported in July 2021.<sup>21</sup> This survey has been undertaken since the establishment of the Inner West Council in 2016.

General satisfaction with the Inner West Council has improved since the formation of the Council and is shown below in the table. The number of residents who are at least somewhat satisfied has remained consistent over the last three years at a level that is above the Micromex LGA benchmark for the metropolitan region. This level of satisfaction is comparable across the wards, with the highest mean satisfaction ratings in the Marrickville and Ashfield Wards and the lowest in the Balmain Ward.

Figure 14 Community satisfaction survey results

Q1a. Overall, how satisfied are you with the performance of Inner West Council, not just on one or two issues but across all responsibility areas?

	2021	2018	Male	Female	18-24	25-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Mean rating	3.58	3.58	3.54	3.63	3.69	3.82▲	3.55	3.39▼	3.44▼	3.53	3.68▲
Base	1002	1003	483	519	103	246	302	202	148	646	356

	Ward					Time lived in the area			
	Ashfield	Leichhardt	Balmain	Stanmore	Marrickville	Less than 2 years	2-5 years	6-10 years	More than 10 years
Mean rating	3.63	3.56	3.49	3.58	3.64	3.79	3.77▲	3.74▲	3.48▼
Base	196	203	156	245	202	83	130	157	632



	Inner West Council 2021	Inner West Council 2018	Inner West Council 2017	Inner West Council 2016	Micromex LGA Benchmark - Metro
Mean rating	3.58	3.58	3.49	3.42	3.55
T3 Box	92%	91%	90%	85%	89%
Base	1002	1003	1002	1008	37,950

Other results of note include:

- Satisfaction with Council's integrity and decision making rose slightly. Those living in Balmain were significantly less satisfied when compared to those in other wards.

<sup>21</sup> Micromex Research, 2021, Inner West Council Community Research.



- When it came to living in the Inner West, aside from ‘Council offers good value for money’, agreement with every measure either rose or stayed the same since 2018. The majority of these measures that are comparable to Micromex’s LGA metropolitan benchmark were performing above it.
- 88% of resident believe Inner West Council is at least somewhat caring. Younger age groups and newcomers to the area were significantly more likely to believe that Council were caring.
- There has been a slight increase since 2018, with 85% of residents stating Council is at least somewhat creative. Again, younger residents and newcomers are more likely to believe so.
- Residents’ perceptions of Council being ‘just’ saw residents’ ratings shifting from ‘very just’ and ‘just’ down to ‘somewhat just’, this resulting in a significant drop in the mean rating when compared to 2018 research. Younger age groups and those who had been in the area for less than five years were significantly more likely to think that Council were just.

Overall, this research suggests that the Inner West communities are generally more satisfied than not with the Council, that this satisfaction has improved since the Council was formed and is generally higher than other metropolitan Sydney councils. The research does not identify any dissatisfaction from one of the former council residents to inform a potential de-amalgamation.

### Community Strategic Plans

An analysis of the individual community priorities pre-merger is set out in the following table. This analysis has been drawn from the Council Community Strategic Plans (CSPs) that existed at the time and then compared with the vision and priorities in the current Inner West Community Strategic Plan.



Table 22 Analysis of individual community priorities pre-merger

Council	Vision	Broader themes
Inner West	<p>Our Inner West 2036 sets the community vision for the merged Council area as:</p> <p>We are Inner West, land of the Gadigal and Wangal peoples, whose rich cultures, heritage and history we acknowledge and respect. We are defined by our diversity of people, places and ideas. We are an inclusive, vibrant, caring and progressive community where everyone is welcome, people and nature live in harmony, and creativity is a way of life.</p>	<p><i>An ecologically sustainable Inner West:</i> Inner West is a zero emissions community. We generate our own clean and 100% renewable energy. We are zero waste with a vibrant share economy. We are water sensitive and rich with biodiversity. Our waterways are clean, swimmable and brimming with wildlife. We show energetic leadership in collectively addressing climate change. People live sustainably because it's easy to do. We work together on complex urban environmental issues and develop creative solutions through collaboration, partnerships and education. We enjoy the benefits that our healthy ecosystems provide the human environment – like trees, fresh, clean air, water and food.</p> <p><i>Unique, liveable, networked neighbourhoods:</i> Inner West is the most liveable place in Greater Sydney. Most services and needs can be accessed within 15 minutes. Moving around our network of neighbourhoods is cool, quick, convenient and enjoyable. Each of our neighbourhoods has a unique inner city urban vibe. Our heritage and culture – a mix of old and new – is visible and valued. Inner West is affordable for all. People connect through ideas, technology, transport and the places they call home – enjoying a diversity of people, places, housing and experiences.</p> <p><i>Creative communities and a strong economy:</i> Inner West is the creative and cultural engine room of Sydney – bringing a wealth of experience and employment to the city. We are home to artists, musicians, writers, studios, galleries, creative industries, artstrun initiatives, academics, theatres and festivals. We are an incubator for new ideas, at the forefront of using new technologies to support and grow a diverse and thriving local economy. Our residents, workers and visitors enjoy food, music, the arts, recreation, diverse shopping experiences and interesting places that are vibrant, inspiring and pleasurable.</p> <p><i>Caring, happy, healthy communities:</i> We have a strong sense of social justice. We see our diversity as an asset. Everyone is valued and accepted for who they are, and supported to participate in community life. We are resilient in the face of adversity and change. We keep each other and ourselves safe. We collaborate with each other and create meaningful partnerships. We are active and healthy people with access to the services and spaces we need for recreation for our mental and physical wellbeing. Our public places and spaces facilitate our enjoyment of urban living and community cultural expression.</p> <p><i>Progressive local leadership:</i></p> <p>We are a community of diverse voices that are listened to and respected. We have trust in our leaders and feel empowered to become leaders ourselves. All of us have the information, support and opportunities to show leadership and effect change. We are innovative and creative in our approaches to tackling big issues. We stand up for what we believe in and collectively shape and own our future.</p>



Council	Vision	Broader themes
Leichhardt	<p>Leichhardt Council had set the following vision for 2025:</p> <p>Our Local Community – making it the place where we want to live, work, play and visit.</p> <p>Democratic Responsible Government – open, participative and proactive Council leading the community.</p> <p>Sustainability – shared passion and commitment to consistently do all the things required to enhance and preserve the social, environmental, economic and civic leadership factors that are important to the lives of future generations and life on our planet.</p>	<p>A Leichhardt community that is equitable, cohesive, connected, caring, diverse, healthy, safe, culturally active, creative and innovative, and has a strong sense of belonging and place.</p> <p>Accessibility: Easy access for people, services, information and facilities that promotes the amenity, health and safety of the community and that reduces private car dependency for all travel.</p> <p>A liveable place – socially, environmentally and economically; a sustainable environment created by inspiring, leading and guiding our social, environmental and economic activities.</p> <p>Thriving businesses and a vibrant community working together to improve the local economy.</p> <p>Sustainable services and assets and accountable civic leadership that delivers services and assets to support the community now and in the future.</p>



Council	Vision	Broader themes
<b>Marrickville</b>	<p>Marrickville Council's vision for 2023 was for:</p> <p>A culturally diverse, forward thinking, inner city communities and neighbourhoods.</p> <p>A community that remains welcoming, proud of its diversity and its history.</p> <p>A place where businesses are confident and responsive to the needs of the local community. Is a creative community.</p> <p>A place that values the people who celebrate, challenge and inspire local identity and sense of place.</p> <p>The environment is healthy and native plants and animals are thriving.</p> <p>Local communities work closely with Council, which is ethical, effective and accountable.</p>	<p>A diverse community that is socially just, educated, safe and healthy.</p> <p>A creative and cultural Marrickville.</p> <p>A vibrant economy and well planned, sustainable urban environment and infrastructure.</p> <p>Effective, consultative and representative council.</p>
<b>Ashfield</b>	<p>Ashfield's vision for 2023 was for:</p> <p>A caring community of linked villages inspired by its rich cultural history, heritage and diversity.</p>	<p>Creative and inclusive community.</p> <p>Unique and distinctive neighbourhoods.</p> <p>Living sustainably.</p> <p>Thriving local economy.</p> <p>Attractive and lively town centre.</p> <p>Engaging and innovative local democracy.</p>

There are a number of similarities between the former councils that have carried forward into the Inner West Community Strategic Plan. Word clouds have been prepared of the higher-level strategic visions and themes of the four CSPs and, perhaps not surprisingly, all have the community at their core and a number of common themes largely driven by the common aspirations of communities in general. The Inner West strategic direction is well aligned to that of its former councils' CSPs and there are no significant strategic advantages or disadvantages as a result of the merger or potential de-amalgamation.



## Communities of interest

Morrison Low undertook a desktop review<sup>22</sup> of the communities of Marrickville, Ashfield and Leichardt Council areas in 2015 to advise the then Marrickville Council on community similarities and differences for a potential merger of the councils. This was undertaken in order to understand the current demographic composition of the area, the similarities and differences between the council areas and the interrelationships and communities of interest that exist within the area. The key sources of information for the review were ABS Census Data, population, household and dwelling projections prepared by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment<sup>23</sup>, along with the analysis contained in the *New South Wales Local Government Areas: Similarities and Differences, A report for the Independent Local Government Review Panel* report.<sup>24</sup>

We have reviewed this information, given six years have elapsed and one census in 2016 has added to the data set. We note there have been some minor changes but for the purposes of this report the community similarities and differences has not changed substantially since then, so this report is still of relevance. One of the challenges with future comparisons is the local government comparative data by former council is no longer collected in that format.

Communities of interest are more likely to have similar interests and needs from their council, whereas people who do not share a community of interest are more likely to have different needs from their council.

## Summary of similarities and differences

There are a number of similarities and differences between the two areas noted in 2015, including:

- The forecast population growth rate for Ashfield and Leichardt is slightly lower than for Marrickville.
- Ashfield has a much higher proportion of high-density dwellings and a lower proportion of medium-density dwellings relative to Leichardt and Marrickville.
- The three councils belong to a cluster which features moderately high household wealth and much of this wealth is in housing.
- All three councils belong to a cluster of councils with a low ratio of children to adults of parenting age and a low proportion of elderly people.
- The three councils have similar industry profiles with a predominance residents employed in professional, scientific and technical services, health care and social assistance and education and training.
- All three areas have a predominance of residents employed as professionals and managers.
- Leichardt and Marrickville belong to the inner ring commuter cluster where around 35% or more commute to the City of Sydney for work. Ashfield belongs to the middle ring commuter cluster where between 20 and 35% of the resident workforce is employed in the City of Sydney.

<sup>22</sup> Morrison Low, 2015. *Communities of Interest: Marrickville, Leichardt and Ashfield*, Sydney.

<sup>23</sup> NSW Government, Department of Planning Industry and Environment, 2019. Projects. Retrieved from <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/en-au/deliveringhomes/populationandhouseholdprojections/data.aspx>.

<sup>24</sup> National Institute of Economic and industry Research, 2013. *New South Wales Local Government Areas: Similarities and Differences, A report for the Independent Local Government Review Panel*, Clifton Hill.



Observations from the latest forecasts are:

- population apportionments between the former council remain unchanged
- all three former council areas have experienced increased population density
- both the former Marrickville and Leichhardt Council areas have experienced higher loss of single dwelling units moving to high-density and medium-density developments respectively
- the mix of household types have remained very similar.

## Capacity to pay

Inner West Council was required to harmonise the three former councils' rating structures that it had in place by 30 June 2021. As part of informing this process, Morrison Low undertook community analysis<sup>25</sup> to inform this decision. The new rating system needed to take into account a number of factors including equity, efficiency, and capacity to pay. This report puts due emphasis on the capacity to pay principle; given that some ratepayers have more ability to pay rates than others.

This report provides a useful analysis and evaluation of relative wealth and financial capacity; it looks at the financial vulnerability and exposure of different community groups within the LGA. The key findings are summarised on the following page.

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<sup>25</sup> Morrison Low, 2020. *Revised Capacity to Pay Report - Inner West Council, Sydney.*



Table 23 Ward characteristics

Ward	Characteristics
<b>Areas of advantage</b>	
Balmain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Characterised by established families and empty nesters</li> <li>Very high levels of household income</li> <li>High property values and high levels of home ownership</li> <li>Very low levels of disadvantage</li> </ul>
Stanmore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Characterised by a significant large young workforce</li> <li>Very high levels of household income</li> <li>High proportion of renters</li> </ul>
Leichhardt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Characterised by established families</li> <li>High levels of household income</li> <li>High levels of home ownership</li> </ul>
<b>Areas of disadvantage</b>	
Ashfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Average levels of household income</li> <li>High proportion of renters</li> <li>High levels of vulnerable individuals (unemployment, housing stress, etc.)</li> </ul>
Marrickville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Characterised by a significant large young workforce</li> <li>Average levels of household income</li> <li>High levels of home ownership</li> <li>High levels of vulnerable individuals (unemployment, housing stress, etc.)</li> </ul>

## Environmental comparative analysis

On 23 June 2020, Council endorsed the planning proposal to facilitate the draft Inner West Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2020, to consolidate the provisions of the three former councils' LEPs into a single new LEP that operates across the Inner West LGA. The following summary is based on the overarching LEP plan aims from Inner West Council (2020 LEP) and the three former councils' LEPs that existed at the time of the merger. This analysis provides an analysis of the similarities and differences in approached to:

- protection of the natural environment
- protection the built environment and built heritage
- general approach to growth and development.



Table 24 Environmental comparative analysis

Council	Natural	Built	Approach to growth
Inner West	<p>Relative emphasis on natural environment – medium-high.</p> <p>The particular aims of the LEP which relate to the protection of the natural environment are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to mitigate the impact of climate change and adapt to its impacts</li> <li>to protect, enhance and sustainably manage biodiversity, natural ecosystems, water resources, ecological processes and urban forest</li> <li>to ensure that the risk to the community in areas subject to urban and natural hazards is minimised</li> <li>to identify, protect and conserve environmental and cultural heritage and significant local character</li> <li>to protect and enhance significant views and vistas from the public domain and promote view sharing from and between private dwellings.</li> </ul>	<p>Relative emphasis on built heritage – medium.</p> <p>The particular aims of the LEP which relate to the protection of built heritage are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to retain, protect and increase industrial and employment land and enhance the function and vitality of centres</li> <li>to protect and enhance the amenity, vitality and viability of Inner West for existing and future residents, workers and visitors.</li> </ul>	<p>Emphasis on encouraging transport oriented, quality sustainable development and housing diversity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to ensure development applies the principles of ecologically sustainable development</li> <li>to ensure that existing and future residents, visitors and workers have access to sustainable transport including walking and cycling, social and community infrastructure, services and public open space</li> <li>to promote accessible and diverse housing types to support people at all stages of life, including the provision and retention of affordable housing</li> <li>to achieve a high-quality urban form and open space in the public and private domain by ensuring new development exhibits architectural and urban design excellence</li> <li>to prevent adverse social, economic and environmental impacts including cumulative impacts.</li> </ul>



Council	Natural	Built	Approach to growth
Ashfield	<p>Relative emphasis on natural environment – medium.</p> <p>The particular aims of the LEP which relate to the protection of the natural environment are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to promote the orderly and economic development of Ashfield in a manner that is consistent with the need to protect the environment</li> <li>to identify and conserve the environmental and cultural heritage of Ashfield</li> <li>to ensure that development has proper regard to environmental constraints and minimises any adverse impacts on biodiversity, water resources, riparian land and natural landforms</li> <li>to require that new development incorporates the principles of ecologically sustainable development.</li> </ul>	<p>Relative emphasis on built heritage – medium.</p> <p>The particular aims of the LEP which relate to the protection of built heritage are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to retain and enhance the identity of Ashfield as an early residential suburb with local service industries and retail centres</li> <li>to protect the urban character of the Haberfield, Croydon and Summer Hill urban village centres while providing opportunities for small-scale, infill development that enhances the amenity and vitality of the centres.</li> </ul>	<p>Emphasis on encouraging transport oriented, quality compact development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to provide increased housing choice in locations that have good access to public transport, community facilities and services, retail and commercial services and employment opportunities</li> <li>to strengthen the viability and vitality of the Ashfield town centre as a primary centre for investment, employment, cultural and civic activity, and to encourage a majority of future housing opportunities to be located within and around the centre.</li> </ul>
Leichhardt	<p>Relative emphasis on natural environment – high.</p> <p>The particular aims of the LEP which relate to the protection of the natural environment are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to ensure that development applies the principles of ecologically sustainable development</li> <li>to minimise land use conflict and the negative impact of urban development on the natural, social, economic, physical and historical environment</li> <li>to identify, protect, conserve and enhance the environmental and cultural heritage of Leichhardt</li> </ul>	<p>Relative emphasis on built heritage – high.</p> <p>The particular aims of the LEP which relate to the protection of built heritage are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to maintain and enhance Leichhardt’s urban environment</li> <li>to minimise land use conflict and the negative impact of urban development on the natural, social, economic, physical and historical environment</li> </ul>	<p>Emphasis on encouraging transport oriented, quality compact development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to ensure that land use zones are appropriately located to maximise access to sustainable transport, community services, employment and economic opportunities, public open space, recreation facilities and the waterfront</li> </ul>



Council	Natural	Built	Approach to growth
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● to protect and enhance views and vistas of Sydney Harbour, Parramatta River, Callan Park and Leichhardt and Balmain civic precincts from roads and public vantage points</li> <li>● to prevent undesirable incremental change, including demolition, that reduces the heritage significance of places, conservation areas and heritage items</li> <li>● to ensure that development responds to, conserves, protects and enhances the natural environment, including terrestrial, aquatic and riparian habitats, bushland, biodiversity, wildlife habitat corridors and ecologically sensitive land</li> <li>● to promote energy conservation, water cycle management (incorporating water conservation, water reuse, catchment management, stormwater pollution control and flood risk management) and water sensitive urban design</li> <li>● to ensure that existing landforms and natural drainage systems are protected</li> <li>● to ensure that the risk to the community in areas subject to environmental hazards is minimised</li> <li>● to ensure that the impacts of climate change are mitigated and adapted to.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● to ensure that development is compatible with the character, style, orientation and pattern of surrounding buildings, streetscape, works and landscaping and the desired future character of the area</li> <li>● to protect, conserve and enhance the character and identity of the suburbs, places and landscapes of Leichhardt, including the natural, scientific and cultural attributes of the Sydney Harbour foreshore and its creeks and waterways, and of surface rock, remnant bushland, ridgelines and skylines.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● to provide for development that promotes road safety for all users, walkable neighbourhoods and accessibility, reduces car dependency and increases the use of active transport through walking, cycling and the use of public transport</li> <li>● to ensure an adequate supply of land and housing to facilitate employment and economic opportunities, and to ensure that development provides high quality landscaped areas in residential developments.</li> </ul> <p>Also some emphasis on housing type and mix and affordability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● to promote accessible and diverse housing types, and affordable housing.</li> </ul>



Council	Natural	Built	Approach to growth
Marrickville	<p>Relative emphasis on natural environment – low/medium.</p> <p>The particular aims of the LEP which relate to the protection of the natural environment are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to ensure development applies the principles of ecologically sustainable development</li> <li>to promote sustainable transport, reduce car use and increase use of public transport, walking and cycling.</li> </ul>	<p>Relative emphasis on built heritage – low/medium.</p> <p>The particular aims of the LEP which relate to the protection of the natural environment are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to identify and conserve the environmental and cultural heritage of Marrickville.</li> </ul>	<p>Emphasis on encouraging transport oriented, quality compact development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to support the efficient use of land, vitalisation of centres, integration of transport and land use and an appropriate mix of uses</li> <li>to increase residential and employment densities in appropriate locations near public transport while protecting residential amenity</li> <li>to protect existing industrial land and facilitate new business and employment</li> <li>to promote sustainable transport, reduce car use and increase use of public transport, walking and cycling.</li> </ul> <p>Also some emphasis on housing type and mix and affordability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to promote accessible and diverse housing types including the provision and retention of affordable housing.</li> </ul>

The four council LEPs' aims are relatively consistent with no major conflicts observed. This suggests there are no significant environmental differences in approaches between the Inner West Council and the three former councils, therefore there are few benefits to be gained from a de-amalgamation from an environmental perspective.



The Council has prepared and adopted a number of strategies including:

- Inner West Climate and Renewables Strategy
- Draft Zero Waste Strategy (plan exhibited, on agenda 3rd August 2021 for adoption)
- Local Strategic Planning Statement (Strategic Planning Team)
- Going Places - Integrated Transport Plan (Strategic Planning Team)
- Litter Prevention Strategy – draft in consultation
- Green Places Plan – draft under review.

The Zero Waste Strategy and recent Inner West initiatives have strengthened the Council’s environmental activities, in particular in resource recovery, waste, food and garden organics.

In addition the Council has adopted a number of environmental targets:

- Corporate carbon target: carbon neutral and 100% renewable electricity by 2025: Inner West Council currently 25% renewable for electricity, tender in progress to source 100% renewable electricity).
- 100% divestment from fossil fuel - achieved 1<sup>st</sup> council in NSW.
- By 2036:
  - community emissions are 75% less than in 2017
  - 100% of schools have installed solar
  - Inner West community solar PV capacity is 20 times greater than in 2017.
- Reduce waste landfilled per capita by 50% by 2036.
- Reduce food and garden organic waste disposed in landfill by 60% by 2030.
- Divert 60% of recyclables from the garbage bin by 2036.
- Increase recycling of televisions and computers by 80% by 2036.
- Reduce the amount of hazardous waste presented in the garbage to 50% by 2036.
- Reduce illegal dumping by 50% by 2030.

The Inner West Council has reported progress against these initiatives including:

- Urban canopy mapping completed – targeted areas for renewed planting identified.
- Whole of LGA tree asset audit finalised.
- First stages of accelerated public planting program commenced.
- Designing reuse hub with local organisations and deliver repair workshops to maximise reuse of household items.
- Aligning the household bulky clean-up service for households to an on-request booked collection.
- Food recycling service for all apartments across the Inner West. The food recycling service became available to all apartments from March 2021 and collects over 500 tonnes annually (increasing with more apartments using the service), reducing organics sent to landfill.
- Home composting workshops and subsidies. About 700 composting systems subsidised by Council are purchased annually by Inner West residents.



- Two community recycling centres (CRCs) open on weekends for dropping off problem waste including paint, oil, batteries, gas bottles, fluorescent globes, smoke detectors, fire alarms and e-waste. Around 80 tonnes of chemicals were dropped off in 2019-20 and 20 tonnes of e-waste for recycling through the CRCs and drop off.
- Inner West Council corporate carbon emissions are now 28% less than they were in 2016/17.
- Solar capacity in the Inner West has more than doubled since 2017. Go solar program was expanded to apartments, schools and local businesses.
- \$1.6 million rooftop solar and energy efficiency program has more than doubled Council's solar capacity since the program commenced. Council has over 700kW of solar PV installed on over 35 buildings.
- Accelerated LED street lighting roll out. 99% complete - the targeted inefficient lights have been replaced with highly efficient LED. Project has reduced Council's electricity from streetlighting by 22% and 9% of Council total electricity consumption. Council is working in a regional collaboration to undertake similar upgrades on main road streetlighting.
- First group of local government organisations to establish a renewable energy agreement in NSW (with Moree Solar Farm). Inner West Council is supplied with over 4,000,000 kilowatt-hours of renewable power each year from Moree Solar Farm. This amount covers almost all of Council's daytime electricity use. Daytime use is approximately 25% of our overall operational electricity consumption. Current tender in progress to source 100% renewable electricity.
- Council received a national Climate Award in October 2020 from the Cities Power Partnership for engaging the community on solar. Solar capacity in the Inner West has more than doubled since 2017. Program was expanded to apartments, schools and local businesses.
- Office of Renewable Energy Innovation, Renewable Energy Innovation Officer (three-year position created).
- 11% of 2019/20 solar installations in the Inner West can be attributed to the solar quote service provided by Inner West Council.
- 'Solar my School', Council is working with 23 local schools. A combined audience of over 23,500 students and their families and a solar potential of over 2MW of rooftop solar.
- Haystacks solar garden: Council is promoting the Haystacks Solar Garden project. The 1MW solar farm will be constructed in the NSW Riverina Region and split into 3kW solar plots, benefitting 333 'solar gardeners' who will receive a credit on their home electricity bills. Targeting residents who may not be able to install solar on their homes because they rent or live in an apartment.
- Green Living Centre program extended reach to entire Inner West LGA. Face-to-face and online workshops, events.

The Inner West Council has also been addressing regional issues such as catchment management, natural resource management, biodiversity and develop programs such as Green Living Centre program.

It is not possible to know whether the constituent councils would have adopted or delivered the same level of environmental initiatives over the last five years compared the Inner West Council. It is relatively clear the Inner West Council has been actively focused on the environment (receiving a number of awards) and this benefited the entire community.



## Potential de-amalgamation benefits

There are potential benefits that could accrue as a result of a de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council, although these will depend on the de-amalgamation legislation, guidelines and process adopted. If the legislation enables immediate change to services and/or does not protect staff like the merger process, there may be some short-term benefits.

Potential benefits include:

- Improved access by residents to elected representation. The current elected representation per resident is a little over 14,000 people per elected member. Under a de-amalgamated model this number would be between approximate 4,000 and 8,000 depending on the council and final number of elected members.
- The ability to reset. One Queensland chief executive that we spoke to, identified the opportunity to shed some assets and processes to create a new organisation from scratch as benefit. For example, moving ICT into the cloud rather than setting up new infrastructure.
- Create further efficiencies. The creation of a new council creates new efficiencies or the opportunity to wind back some of the improvements introduced by the Inner West Council such as equalised service levels, like verge maintenance.
- The community of interest is the same as Inner West.
- Ability to work more closely with established community groups developing a better understanding of community challenges.

There are other potential short-term gains. We noted in our research of the Queensland de-amalgamations in 2014, that there was a tendency for the newly separated councils to run as leanly as possible for the first few years, potentially to disprove the amalgamation and demonstrate their capability on their own. This tended to be relatively short lived, with councils returning to their original size within a few years.

## Appendix A Assumptions and key methodologies

The following assumptions have been made in preparing this report.

- The Inner West Council will be dissolved, and three new councils established based on the former local government areas of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville.
- There are no prescribed methodology or rules for de-amalgamation in NSW and acknowledge differences of methodologies can be used.
- For guidance, past de-amalgamation cases and merger processes have been drawn on to support this analysis.
- Cost and benefit assessment based on the current service levels of Inner West Council.
- There will be no shared services between the councils. The newly formed councils will establish and operate independently as they did prior to the merger. New systems and processes will be developed and these must be operational on day one.
- Methodology to re-establish three former councils as if the merger had not occurred using a predictive model to replicate the former councils' long term financial plans and validated.
- Nominal de-amalgamation date is 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022.
- A combination of public information, namely financial statements, Long Term Financial Plan, Annual Reports and Council reports have been utilised. Council provided information tested and validated through individual staff interviews with some comparative assessment.
- Establish ongoing benefits, costs, and service changes of Inner West merger.
- De-amalgamation modelling undertaken of the operating position that each of the pre-merger councils would have been in. Using 2014/15 published financial statements and previous modelling to 2019/20, validation by a comparative assessment to the three councils that did not participate in LGA mergers (Burwood, Canada Bay, Strathfield), that predicted the financial position of these unmerged Councils to 2019/20.
- Developed a range of distribution approaches appropriate to each type of revenue and expense change.
- Established on off de-amalgamation costs and benefits for distribution.
- There will be a process whereby all staff with the exception of senior staff of Inner West Council will be offered roles in one of the three councils. There is likely to be some redundancies, as was evidenced in the Queensland de-amalgamations, although it is assumed there will be no forced redundancies. Redundancies will occur by staff choice enforcing award provision as a result of some staff electing not to accept a substantially different position in one of the smaller new councils.
- All staff transferred will be protected for a period as they were in 2016. There will be no forced redundancies by the new councils.
- Recruitment costs have been allowed given the expect redundancies.
- Transition structure created with an estimated transition period of nine months to enable the establishment of the three new councils. During that time an administrator or transition body will recruit a new general manager and make preliminary decisions to ensure the councils are able to operate effectively on day one of establishment. During the transition period the new general manager will create a new organisational structure and appoint staff to operate from day one.



- Allowed for COVID-19 impact by decreases to de-amalgamated councils' income by the estimated loss in income of Inner West Council and recovery adjusted in line with future modelling of Inner West LTFP model.
- Allowed for additional election costs due to the significant increases in costs from the 2012 election detailed in IPART's review of election costs report, August 2019.
- Allowed for the creation of three separate information technology installations cloud base with Technology One as the enterprise solution.
- Ongoing costs and benefits from Inner West Council have been allocated based on the distribution approaches.
- Used rateable assessment numbers to illustrate the potential cost of the de-amalgamation.
- Used the special rates variation approach as the source of funding for the de-amalgamation costs.
- Used the average rate approach to demonstrate the potential impact on ratepayers of each of the three de-amalgamated councils.
- For customer satisfaction used the Micromex Research 2021 survey results.



## Appendix B Establishment and transition

### Transition costs

The formation of the new entity from the current state of the three councils to one will require a transition to ensure that the new entity is able to function on day one. This section identifies tasks to be undertaken and estimates transitional costs that are benchmarked against the Auckland Transition Agency (ATA) results and the costs as estimated by Stimpson & Co<sup>26</sup> for the proposed Wellington reorganisation.

In the transition to an amalgamated entity there are a number of tasks that need to be undertaken to ensure that the new entity is able to function from day one with minimal disruption to customers and staff. The types of tasks and objectives are summarised in the table below.

<b>Governance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing democratic structures (council committees)</li> <li>• Establishing the systems and processes to service and support the democratic structure</li> <li>• Developing the governance procedures and corporate policy and procedures underlying elected member and staff delegations</li> <li>• Developing the organisational structure of the new organisation</li> </ul>
<b>Workforce</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing the workforce-related change management process including new employment contracts, location and harmonisation of wages</li> <li>• Establishing the human resource capacity for the new entity and ensuring all policies, processes and systems are in place for day one</li> <li>• Ensuring that positions required are filled</li> </ul>
<b>Finance and Treasury</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring that the new entity is able to generate the revenue it needs to operate</li> <li>• Ensuring that the new entity is able to satisfy any borrowing requirements</li> <li>• Ensuring the new entity is able to procure goods and services</li> <li>• Developing a methodology for interim rates billing and a strategy for rates harmonisation</li> <li>• Developing a plan for continued statutory and management reporting requirements</li> <li>• Developing a financial framework that complies with legislative requirements</li> </ul>
<b>Business Process</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and managing the integration and harmonisation of business processes and systems for day one, including customer call centres, financial systems, telephony systems, office infrastructure and software, payroll, consent processing etc</li> <li>• Developing an initial ICT strategy to support the day one operating environment that includes the identification of those processes and systems that require change</li> <li>• Developing a longer-term ICT strategy that provides a roadmap for the future integration and harmonisation of business processes and systems beyond day one</li> </ul>
<b>Communications</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring that appropriate communication strategies and processes are in place for the new entity</li> <li>• Developing a communication plan for the transition period that identifies the approach to internal and external communication to ensure that staff and customers are kept informed during the transition period</li> </ul>

<sup>26</sup> Stimpson & Co, *Report to Local Government*.



<b>Legal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring any legal risks are identified and managed for the new entity</li> <li>Ensuring that existing assets, contracts etc are transferred to the new entity</li> <li>Ensuring all litigation, claims and liabilities relevant to the new entity are identified and managed</li> </ul>
<b>Property and Assets</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring that all property, assets and facilities are retained by the new entity and are appropriately managed and maintained</li> <li>Ensuring the ongoing delivery of property related and asset maintenance services are not adversely impacted on by the reorganisation</li> <li>Facilitating the relocation of staff accommodation requirements as required for day one</li> </ul>
<b>Planning Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring the new entity is able to meet its statutory planning obligations from day one and beyond</li> <li>Ensuring that the entity is able to operate efficiently, and staff and customers understand the planning environment from day one</li> <li>Developing a plan to address the statutory planning requirements beyond day one</li> </ul>
<b>Regulatory Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring that day one regulatory requirements and processes including consenting, licensing and enforcement activities under statute are in place</li> <li>Ensuring that business as usual is able to continue with minimum impact to customers from day one and beyond</li> </ul>
<b>Customer Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring no reduction of the customer interaction element – either face to face, by phone, e-mail or in writing from day one and beyond</li> <li>Ensuring no customer service system failures on day one and beyond</li> <li>Ensuring that staff and customers are well informed for day one and beyond</li> </ul>
<b>Community Services</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring that the new entity continues to provide community services and facilities</li> <li>Ensuring that current community service grant and funding recipients have certainty of funding during the short term</li> </ul>

**Note:** this is not an exhaustive list but provides an indication of the type of work that needs to be undertaken during the transition period.

The transition costs are those costs incurred, during the period of transition, to enable the establishment of the new entity and to ensure that it is able to function on day one. The estimated transition costs for establishment of a new entity are discussed below.

In the case of Auckland, the ATA was established to undertake the transition from nine councils to one entity. In order to undertake the transition the ATA employed staff and contractors and it had other operational costs such as rented accommodation, ICT and communications. The cost of the ATA in 2009 was reported at \$36 million and it is important to note that a substantial number of staff were seconded to the ATA from the existing councils to assist with undertaking the transition tasks. The cost of these secondments and support costs was at the cost of the existing councils and not the ATA.

The work undertaken for the reorganisation of Wellington identified the cost of the transition body as \$20.6 million and, on the assumption of FTEs to transition body costs for Wellington, the estimated cost of the transition body for the merger is \$11 million. This figure may be understated and is dependent on the governance structure adopted and other unknown factors that may influence the cost of the transition body. The cost of staff secondment and support costs from existing councils to the transition body is not included in the cost estimate.



## Appendix C Distribution sensitivity analysis

Income Statement	Ongoing cost and benefits summary								
	Ashfield			Leichhardt			Marrickville		
	All approaches	Population	Rate assessments	All approaches	Population	Rate assessments	All approaches	Population	Rate assessments
Rates & annual charges	-\$ 1,276	-\$ 1,655	-\$ 1,602	-\$ 1,971	-\$ 2,120	-\$ 2,333	-\$ 4,053	-\$ 3,525	-\$ 3,365
User fees & charges	\$ 3,693	\$ 1,109	\$ 1,073	\$ 1,320	\$ 1,420	\$ 1,563	-\$ 122	\$ 2,362	\$ 2,254
Grants & contributions - operations	0			0			0		
Grants & contributions for capital	0			0			0		
Interest and investment income	0			0			0		
Total income	\$ 2,417	-\$ 546	-\$ 529	-\$ 651	-\$ 700	-\$ 770	-\$ 4,175	-\$ 1,163	-\$ 1,110
Expenses									
Borrowing costs	\$ 1,100	\$ 249	\$ 241	\$ -	\$ 319	\$ 352	\$ -	\$ 531	\$ 507
Employee benefits	\$ 4,836	\$ 1,751	\$ 1,695	\$ 1,989	\$ 2,243	\$ 2,469	\$ 900	\$ 3,730	\$ 3,560
Depreciation & amortisation	\$ 805	\$ 375	\$ 363	\$ 62	\$ 480	\$ 529	\$ 787	\$ 799	\$ 762
All other expenses	\$ 4,147	\$ 2,091	\$ 2,024	\$ 1,907	\$ 2,678	\$ 2,948	\$ 3,168	\$ 4,453	\$ 4,251
Total expenses	\$ 10,888	\$ 4,467	\$ 4,323	\$ 3,958	\$ 5,721	\$ 6,297	\$ 4,855	\$ 9,513	\$ 9,080
Operating result	-\$ 8,471	-\$ 5,013	-\$ 4,852	-\$ 4,609	-\$ 6,420	-\$ 7,067	-\$ 9,030	-\$ 10,676	-\$ 10,190

**Item No:** C0921(2) Item 12  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF MOTION: DISPOSAL OF SHARPS DURING VACCINATION ROLL OUT  
**From:** The Mayor, Councillor Darcy Byrne

**THAT Council:**

1. Notes that the roll out of Covid-19 vaccination program has increased the number of syringes pharmacists need to dispose of;
2. Notes that Council’s Community Sharps Collection program does not cover this increase in syringe use;
3. Provides an additional medical waste bin to pharmacists who apply to Council to dispose of these syringes, which will then be disposed of by Council; and
4. This service to be provided for the length of the Federal Government’s vaccination program and is only available to pharmacies within the Inner West local area.

**Officer’s Comments:**

**Comment from Resource Recovery Planning Manager:**

Council has an existing community sharps service and \$12,000 was budgeted for this service for 2021-22 as part of domestic waste budget. Council collects sharps from 15 existing pharmacies with a further 8 about to commence the service. Most pharmacies receive 1 or 2 collections per month per pharmacy for community returned sharps (e.g. from diabetics).

Pharmacies agreed to provide their own sharps collection service as part of the vaccine roll out agreement entered into with the Australian Government. There are approximately 50 pharmacies in the Inner West LGA and if Council was to cover the cost of the sharps collection from all IWC pharmacies it is expected to cost at least \$12,030 for 3 months/\$48,120 pa. Should council proceed with this policy the budget would need to be reviewed as part of the quarterly budget process depending on the take up.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.

**Item No:** C0921(2) Item 13  
**Subject:** QUESTION ON NOTICE: RATE COMPARISON  
**From:** Councillor Julie Passas

Council to provide a report which details the following:

**Question**

How much were rates paid for both residential and business for the three (3) former Council areas, Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield last quarter and this quarter?

**Answer**

	<b>Ward</b>	<b>April - June</b>	<b>July - August</b>
<b>Residential</b>	Ashfield	5,934,294	1,999,295
	Leichhardt	8,173,251	2,777,140
	Marrickville	7,660,670	2,703,450
	<b>Total</b>	<b>21,768,216</b>	<b>7,479,885</b>
<b>Business</b>	Ashfield	1,275,784	430,371
	Leichhardt	3,225,547	1,081,815
	Marrickville	4,621,180	1,539,258
	<b>Total</b>	<b>9,122,511</b>	<b>3,051,444</b>

Gross amount (this does not including any rebates)

**ATTACHMENTS**

Nil.