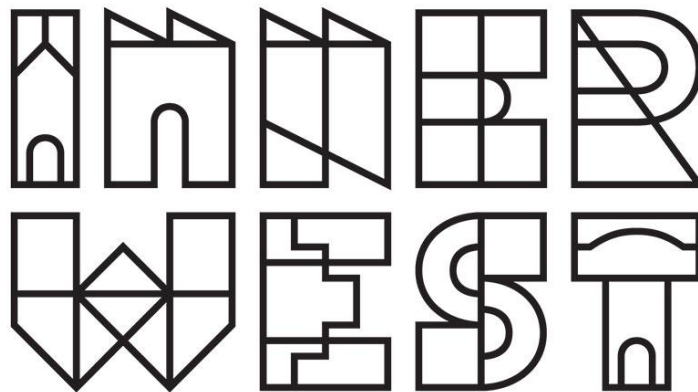


SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA 2

Distributed on 12 October 2021



COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY 12 OCTOBER 2021

6.30pm

Location: Remote Meeting

MEETING AGENDA – PRECIS SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

The following report appears as late item as information required for the preparation of the report was not available at the time of distribution of the Business Paper.

1 Reports for Council Decision

ITEM	Page
C1021(2) Item 1 De-amalgamation Yes / No Case (The report is the same as published in the agenda, attachments 2 and 3 are late)	3

Item No: C1021(2) Item 1
Subject: DE-AMALGAMATION YES / NO CASE
Prepared By: Peter Gainsford - General Manager

RECOMMENDATION

Council adopts the Yes and No case flyer as distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting.

DISCUSSION

At the Ordinary Council meeting of 24 August 2021 Council resolved as follows

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.*

Council engaged an independent copywriter to prepare information from the Morrison Low report as a summary of the advantages and disadvantages for each option in accordance with the above resolution. The draft was circulated to Councillors previously and can be found as Attachment 1.

Subsequently Council was advised that the Electoral Commission could not endorse the YES and NO case and has now engaged a researcher who is undertaking the role of fact checker.

At the 28 September Ordinary Council Meeting resolved as follows:

THAT Council:

- 1. Receives and notes the De-amalgamation Cost Benefit Engagement Outcomes Report;*
- 2. Notes and accepts that the NSW Electoral Commission won't approve the yes and no case but has already signed off on the poll question as per Council's resolution;*

3. *Engage a freelance researcher who undertakes work for RMIT ABC Fact Check to review the draft yes and no case and the final flyer be presented to the Ordinary Meeting on 12 October; and*
4. *Councillors be invited to submit any published documentation or comments on the yes no case by 12PM Friday 1 October 2021 to the General Manager who will forward to the fact checker for their consideration.*

A final copy of the YES and NO case flyer was not available at the time of printing this report and will be distributed to Councillors the day prior to the Council Meeting and for the purposes of the report is referred to as attachment 2.

Council has a [dedicated web page](#) on the elections, including a section on the de-merger poll in the drop-down concertina.

Other scheduled actions include:

- Media release
- Social media
- Home page web banner
- Email signature
- E-news
- Flyer (including YES and NO case) distributed to all households and businesses
- Inner West Council News November edition.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ATTACHMENTS

1. [↓](#) Draft De-amalgamation Flyer Yes and No Case after fact check
2. [↓](#) Inner West de-amalgamation flyer fact check – (Late attachment)
3. [↓](#) Draft De-amalgamation Flyer Yes and No case without fact check - (Late attachment)

Ordinary Council Meeting 12 October 2021
Item 1 De-Amalgamation Yes / No Case
Attachment 2 Draft De-amalgamation Flyer Yes and No case after fact check.

Inner West Council acknowledges the Gadigal and Wangal peoples of the Eora Nation who are the traditional custodians of the lands in which the Inner West local government area is situated.

Inner West Council is a proud, diverse and vibrant community of more than 200,000 people who respect and value different cultures, ideologies and experiences.

At the Local Government elections on 4 December 2021, the community will be asked to elect local representatives and also to answer an additional important question about the future of Inner West Council.

Remain with one Inner West Council or return to the original three councils?

In 2016, the NSW Government formed Inner West Council by bringing together Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville councils.

Recently, the NSW Government made it possible for Councils to put forward a business case for de-amalgamation. In our local government area, de-amalgamation would mean separating the one Inner West Council into the three original councils: Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville.

Inner West Council is considering preparing a de-amalgamation proposal for the NSW Minister for Local Government who is responsible for the final decision.

Your views will be key to informing Council’s position on the value of proceeding with a proposal for the Government to consider.

Weighing-up the ‘yes’ case and the ‘no’ case for de-amalgamation

Like any major decision, having as much information as possible will help to ensure Council takes the right path.

With this in mind, Inner West Council commissioned management consultants, Morrison Low, to provide independent advice on the economic, social and environmental benefits and costs of de-amalgamating.

Morrison Low found the following potential advantages and disadvantages to de-amalgamation:

The YES case for de-amalgamation
There would be a greater number of Councillors per resident compared to current representation. See table 1 for more information
Prior to amalgamation, research indicated high satisfaction rates among residents for Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville councils
The costs associated with a de-amalgamation would be fully funded by the NSW State Government (subject to a business case)

