

Attachment 2



4 March 2022

Ms Wendy Tuckerman
Minister
NSW Office of Local Government
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

By post and email: olg@olg.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Tuckerman,

Thank you for our meeting today regarding the business case on the demerger of Inner West Council. I am writing to provide confirmation of the latest Council resolution on this matter and to clarify a number of questions that I raised in our meeting.

At the February Ordinary Council Meeting Council considered a Mayoral Minute and resolved as follows:

That Council:

- 1. Commences the preparation of a business case for demerger and notifies the NSW Government of the commencement of the development of a business case for demerger;*
- 2. Notes the concerns expressed by Council officers through the resolution of the Joint Consultative Committee about the impact of demerger on morale and productivity within the organisation and commits to engaging with Council staff and their representatives throughout the development of the business case;*
- 3. Notes the overwhelming majority vote of the Inner West Community to demerge; and*
- 4. Involve the community in the preparation of the business case.*

As discussed in the meeting I have detailed below several questions that I would like to be considered by the Office of Local Government that would help Inner West Councillors in progressing this issue.

- a) Once Council submits the business case how long will it take for the NSW Government to make a decision?
- b) If the Boundaries Commission recommends to demerge the Inner West Council and this is approved by the NSW Government I seek a written commitment that the full cost of the demerger be met by the NSW Government with no costs to be borne by Inner West ratepayers. It is important to note that in earlier representations, to the previous Local Government Minister, we were unable to secure such a commitment.
- c) If the Inner West Council is demerged, we seek a written commitment that elected representatives be left in place so they can oversee the transition process and that no Administrator be appointed.



Finally, I would like to restate my request that you and the Executive Director of the Office of Local Government to come and meet all Inner West Councillors to discuss this issue.

Inner West Council will prepare the business case, consult with staff and the community prior to lodgement of the business case.

I look forward to your reply and future dialogue on this matter.

Should you wish to discuss this matter please don't hesitate to contact Council's General Manager Peter Gainsford on 9392 5200.

Yours sincerely,

Darcy Byrne
Inner West Mayor

Encl. Mayoral Minute Demerger Survey