

**Inner West Council**  
**Community Survey – De-amalgamation**  
**2022**

Thank you for your participation in this research.

To complete this survey, please answer the relevant questions on the following pages and please complete to the end. Each question will guide you to provide one response only, or whether to provide multiple responses.

Some questions may not be relevant to you. Please take note of the directions throughout the survey in [Blue](#).

**QA. Please select your age bracket:**

*Please select one response.*

- Under 18
- 18-34
- 35-49
- 50-64
- 65+

**QB. How long have you lived in what is now the Inner West Council area?**

*Please select one response.*

- Under 6 months
- 6 months – 2 years
- 3 – 5 years
- 6 – 10 years
- 11 – 20 years
- More than 20 years
- I live outside the Inner West

**Q1. In which suburb do you live?**

*Please select one response.*

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Annandale                   | <input type="radio"/> Leichhardt   |
| <input type="radio"/> Ashbury                     | <input type="radio"/> Lewisham     |
| <input type="radio"/> Ashfield                    | <input type="radio"/> Lilyfield    |
| <input type="radio"/> Balmain                     | <input type="radio"/> Marrickville |
| <input type="radio"/> Balmain East                | <input type="radio"/> Newtown      |
| <input type="radio"/> Birchgrove                  | <input type="radio"/> Petersham    |
| <input type="radio"/> Camperdown                  | <input type="radio"/> Rozelle      |
| <input type="radio"/> Croydon                     | <input type="radio"/> St Peters    |
| <input type="radio"/> Croydon Park                | <input type="radio"/> Stanmore     |
| <input type="radio"/> Dulwich Hill                | <input type="radio"/> Summer Hill  |
| <input type="radio"/> Enmore                      | <input type="radio"/> Sydenham     |
| <input type="radio"/> Haberfield                  | <input type="radio"/> Tempe        |
| <input type="radio"/> Hurlstone Park              |                                    |
| <input type="radio"/> Other (please specify)..... |                                    |

**Q3. Overall, for the last 12 months, how satisfied are you with the performance of Council, not just on one or two issues but across all responsibility areas?**

*Please select one response.*

- Very satisfied
- Satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Not very satisfied
- Not at all satisfied

**Q4. Thinking of the priorities for your local area for council to focus on in the future, on a scale of 1-5 where 1 is not at all important and 5 is very important, how important is....**

*Please select one response per row.*

	Not at all important			Very important	
	1	2	3	4	5
Managing planning and development	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Environmental protection	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Climate change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintaining and provision of green open spaces	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Traffic management/congestion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Availability and access to public transport	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Access to parking facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintaining the character/heritage/culture of the area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improving road infrastructure/maintenance of roads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Council efficiency/good leadership and communication	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
De-amalgamation of Inner West Council back into the previous Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Concept Statement**

In 2016 the Councils of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville were amalgamated to create Inner West Council.

Inner West Council voted to conduct a poll on de-amalgamation at the election on 4 December. A non-binding poll was held regarding the potential de-amalgamation of Inner West Council and the results were that 62.49% of voters asked for a de-amalgamation.

Inner West Council is developing a business case for the NSW Minister for Local Government who will decide whether Council should de-amalgamate.

**Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?**

*Please select one response.*

- Yes - Support de-amalgamation
- No – Do not support de-amalgamation
- Can't recall/Prefer not to say (If 'Can't recall/Prefer not to say', go to next page)
- Was not a resident of IWC (If 'Was not a resident of IWC', go to next page)

**Q5b. Why did you vote that way?**

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Inner West Council is seeking your views on options for the way forward.

De-amalgamation may bring a number of benefits, such as:

- Improved local representation with more Councillors per resident
- A right to self-determination and the removal of forced amalgamation
- Some perceived service level improvements
- Better alignment of Council priorities to communities of interest.

De-amalgamation also presents significant costs and potential risks including:

- Increases in rates for each de-amalgamated Council to cover funding shortfalls
- Increased costs in staffing, services and program delivery through the loss of efficiencies gained from the amalgamation. De-amalgamation would, for example, add an estimated \$2.25 million per year in executive staff and councillor costs
- Service disruption for the community during the de-amalgamation process
- Staff redundancies, loss of corporate knowledge and the appointment of an interim administrator

Since the amalgamation in 2016, service levels have been maintained by Inner West Council with a projected modest budget surplus from 2022-23.

If Inner West Council is de-amalgamated there are projected increases in rates for each de-amalgamated Council to cover service level funding shortfalls because of a loss of efficiencies that have been gained through the amalgamation. Ultimately each restored Council would determine how to bring their council into a financially sustainable position through improving cost recovery of services, increasing annual charges or rates and/or reviewing the levels and types of services provided. However, to assist the community determine a preference, independently appointed consultants have prepared a business case that weighs-up three distinct de-amalgamation options.

Specifically:

Option A De-amalgamate and return to the service levels provided prior to amalgamation

Option B De-amalgamate and maintain the service levels provided by the current Inner West Council

Option C De-amalgamate and reduce to below pre-amalgamation Council service levels

For two of the three options, deficits have been projected by the independent consultants for all three Councils. The deficits are due to increased costs for new facilities in each Council area, as well as higher costs that will be involved in delivering some services. The costs will need to be funded by a cost increase to households.

**Q6a. How supportive, if at all, are you of Council proceeding with Option A?**

**Option A – De-amalgamate and return to service levels provided prior to amalgamation. The estimated cost increase per household is estimated between \$87 - \$217 (as a resident of Marrickville \$87, Leichardt \$111, Ashfield \$217) per year.**

*Please select one response.*

- Very supportive
- Supportive
- Somewhat supportive
- Not very supportive
- Not at all supportive

**Q6b. How supportive, if at all, are you of Council proceeding with Option B?**

**Option B – De-amalgamate and maintain the service levels provided by the current Inner West Council. The estimated cost increase per household is estimated between \$224 - \$471 (Marrickville \$297, Leichardt \$224, Ashfield \$471) per year.**

*Please select one response.*

- Very supportive
- Supportive
- Somewhat supportive
- Not very supportive
- Not at all supportive

**Q6c. How supportive, if at all, are you of Council proceeding with Option C?**

**Option C – De-amalgamate and reduce to below pre-amalgamation Council service levels so that there is no additional cost increase for households.**

*Please select one response.*

- Very supportive
- Supportive
- Somewhat supportive
- Not very supportive
- Not at all supportive

**Q7. If Inner West Council were to de-amalgamate, please rank the 3 options in order of preference:**

*Please select one option per preference.*

	1 <sup>st</sup> preference	2 <sup>nd</sup> preference	3 <sup>rd</sup> preference
Option A – De-amalgamate and return to the service levels provided prior to amalgamation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Option B – De-amalgamate and maintain the service levels provided by the current Inner West Council	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Option C – De-amalgamate and reduce to below pre-amalgamation Council service levels	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**Q8a. Considering everything now, is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting a de-amalgamation, or should Council remain as Inner West Council?**

*Please select one response.*

- Submit business case for a de-amalgamation
- Remain as Inner West Council

**Q8b. Why do you say that?**

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**Q9. How did you first become aware of the de-amalgamation?**

*Please select one response.*

- Mail out from Council
- Council website
- Newspaper advertisement
- Council eNewsletter
- Mayoral Column in local paper
- Social Media
- Voting in December 2021
  
- Other (please specify).....

**Q. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case?**

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## **Demographics**

The following information is used for demographic purposes only.

**Q10. Which of the following best describes the home where you are currently living?**

*Please select one response.*

- I/We own/are currently buying this property
- I/We currently rent this property

**Q11. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?**

*Please select all that apply.*

- Work full time in the LGA
- Work full time outside the LGA
- Work part time or casual in the LGA
- Work part time or casual outside the LGA
- Home duties
- Student
- Retired
- Unemployed/pensioner
- Other (please specify).....

**Q12. Gender:**

*Please select one response.*

- Male
- Female
- Non Binary
- I use another term

**Q13. Do you identify as being from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse background?**

*Please select one response.*

- Yes
- No

**Thank you for your time and assistance. This market research is carried out in compliance with the Privacy Act, and the information you provided will be used only for research purposes. The research has been conducted by Micromex Research (02 4352 2388) on behalf of Inner West Council.**

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**Please post your completed survey to:**

Inner West Council  
De-amalgamation survey  
PO Box 14 Petersham  
NSW 2049

The last day to post your survey is 31 July 2022.