De-amalgamation Business Case for Inner West Council

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1 Executive summary

Whilst the merger that created Inner West Council ('the amalgamated council') has been in effect since May 2016, there have been calls from within the community over this time to revert to the three former councils of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville ('the de-amalgamated councils').

In an election poll conducted during the last local government election on 4 December 2021, a de-amalgamation was supported by 62.49% of electors (representing an 80.75% voter turnout)[1]. Consequently, in their first meeting in February 2022, the newly elected council resolved to develop a business case for de-amalgamation to be put to the Minister for Local Government and considered by the NSW Local Government Boundaries Commission.

This document outlines the business case for the de-amalgamation of Inner West Council and sets out the case as follows:

- **The case for change**: what is the need being addressed and why is it important?
- **Cost benefit analysis**: what are the options? How do they maximise benefit and deliver value for money?
- **Financial and commercial analysis**: what are the transition costs and capabilities required?
- **Managerial analysis**: can it be delivered? What are the risks associated?

This business case is the result of a campaign from self-organised community groups who have worked towards the de-amalgamation of Inner West Council, some since the amalgamation was proclaimed in 2016. These efforts have been supported by the recent poll which saw 62.49% of voters support a de-amalgamation.

The key benefits of de-amalgamation, that the community have assessed as worth the additional costs, include:

- smaller councils being able to better serve the needs of the community
- significantly improved local representation
- expected service level improvements, particularly around rubbish collection, bins in public spaces, graffiti removal and street cleaning
- a right to self-determination and the removal of an unpopular "forced amalgamation".

This business case presents two options for a de-amalgamation:

- option A (preferred) - pre-merger service levels - amending service levels to that provided prior to amalgamation
- option B - current Inner West Council service levels.

[1] Australian Electoral Commission, 2020. 'Inner West – Poll Election'. Retrieved from: *https://pastvtr.elections.nsw.gov.au/LG2101/inner-west/poll*.

A third option (option C) investigates shared services. This option has been discounted after a review of the literature indicated there was no significant or demonstrated benefit in shared services in NSW local government. However, certain shared service arrangements could provide marginal net benefit for particular services if managed closely and could be considered through business cases by the proposed de-amalgamated councils if the de-amalgamation goes ahead.

The key benefits identified above are not quantifiable and cannot be included in a calculation of net benefit or cost of de-amalgamation. As a result, the evaluation of two options for service levels (options A and B) both show an overall cost in net present value (NPV) terms of between $150.8 million and $162.9 million over ten years and between $200.7 million and $232.8 million over 20 years.

With the additional one-off transition costs estimated at $31.2 million over two years (NPV of $27.3 million), expected to be funded by the State Government as per S218CC(6) of the Local Government Act (NSW) 1993.

Table 1 NPV across options over ten and twenty years ($'000s)

Accounts ($'000s)	Net present value – ten years		Net present value – 20 years	
	Option A	Option B	Option A	Option B
NPV of demerging Inner West Council	**-150,811**	**-162,860**	**-200,675**	**-232,819**
One-off transition cost	-27,257	-27,257	-27,257	-27,257
NPV of demerging Inner West Council (including transition costs)	**-178,068**	**-190,118**	**-227,932**	**-260,076**

The NPV reflects an additional on-going cost impact of de-amalgamation for each council – approximately $3.8 million per annum for Ashfield, $2.8 million per annum for Leichhardt and $3.2 million per annum for Marrickville (under option A). However, each of the de-amalgamated councils will determine how to bring their council into a financially sustainable position. They can decide to improve revenues by improving cost recovery of services, increasing annual charges or rates. They can elect to find efficiency gains through reviewing the levels and types of services provided. In fact, they can select a combination of any or all these options.

As with the de-amalgamations in 2014 in Queensland, councils were allowed to de-amalgamate on the basis that residents supported it. In this case, even though the full cost of demerger was borne entirely by the de-amalgamating council, these councils were able to determine revenues, services and service levels for their communities that brought the councils back to a financially sustainable operating position.

To provide an indication of the impact, if all of the identified on-going costs were absorbed through rate increases, the approximate average increase per rate assessment would be estimated at between $87 and $217 per annum for option A and between $224 and $471 per annum for option B, depending on the council.

Table 2 Cost impacts per rate assessment - options A and B

Option A:	Ashfield	Leichhardt	Marrickville
Recurring costs ($'000s)	$3,793	$2,811	$3,209
Rate assessments	17,463	25,348	36,678
Cost per rates assessment	**$217**	**$111**	**$87**
Option B:	**Ashfield**	**Leichhardt**	**Marrickville**
Recurring costs ($'000s)	$8,227	$5,686	$10,892
Rate assessments	17,463	25,348	36,678
Cost per rates assessment	**$471**	**$224**	**$297**

The estimated cost per rates assessment is not dissimilar to the high-level cost benefit assessment undertaken in July 2021, which estimated an average rate increase of between $180 and $297 per annum. The outcomes of this cost benefit assessment were made public, they were the subject of flyers promoting the subsequent consultation and election poll. Regardless of the estimated costs associated with a de-amalgamation, the community voted to de-merge with 62.49% in favour and 37.51% against.

This business case assesses the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council into the three former councils of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville in line with the pre-2016 amalgamation proclamation boundaries. Noting the modelling includes the 15 former executive management positions and the 36 councillors, with an estimated cost differential of $2.25 million more than the current Inner West Council.

The business case finds that while there is a net financial cost to a de-amalgamation and the benefits of de-amalgamation are largely unquantifiable and subjective, the affected community had access to the information about the potential costs and financial impact ahead of the poll.

Community consultation in July 2022 on the draft of this business case was inconclusive on whether the community supported or did not support the de-amalgamation, with 53% of telephone survey respondents supporting that Inner West Council remain as is. While this survey was statistically representative of the broader community with 600 respondents, there was a margin of error of up to +/- 4%.

Of those that supported the de-amalgamation the key reasons for their support were that smaller council areas provide better management, services and facilities and that the amalgamated council has not provided any improved services or services have declined. Of those that did not support de-amalgamation, the key reasons given were the financial impact of de-amalgamation and the efficiency of service delivery and management under the current council.

However, in weighing the estimated costs against their expectation of benefits, 62.49% of the 104,219 electors who voted in the 2021 council election voted for a de-amalgamation. This indicates that in the community's mind at least, there are significant non-financial benefits which should be considered.

2 Introduction

2.1 Background

2.1.1 The creation of Inner West Council

The Inner West Council was formed, constituted by Local Government Proclamation dated 12 May 2016, as an amalgamation 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*[2], ultimately rejected these stand-alone proposals based on a lack of scale and capacity.

On 6 January 2016, the Minister for Local Government referred a proposal for the merger of Ashfield, Leichhardt, and Marrickville Councils to the Acting Chief Executive Officer for the Office of Local Government, which ultimately resulted in the creation of Inner West Council on 12 May 2016[3]. Burwood, Canada Bay and Strathfield were not amalgamated.

2.1.2 The current Inner West local government area

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 areas.

Table 3 Populations

	Population 2011	Population 2016	Population 2021*	Five-year % change	Ten-year % change
Marrickville	85,104	91,699	103,167	12.51%	21.22%
Ashfield	41,080	43,062	47,596	10.53%	15.86%
Leichhardt	51,385	55,147	61,764	12.00%	20.20%
Inner West total	**177,569**	**189,908**	**212,527**	**11.91%**	**19.69%**

*Estimated resident population

A comparison of the councils prior to the amalgamation was reported in pre-merger analysis undertaken by Morrison Low in 2015[4] and is shown in the following table (using the Office of Local Government's comparative data) compared to the Inner West in 2019/20.

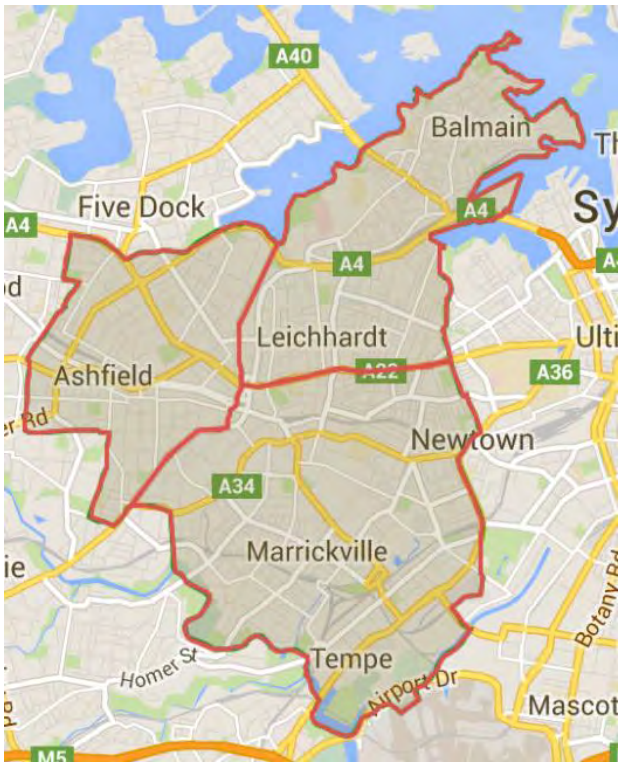
[2] Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART), 2015. *Assessment of Council Fit for the Future Proposals, Local Government – Final Report*, Sydney.
[3] Local Government Boundaries Commission (LGBC), 2016. *Proposed Merger of Ashfield, Leichhardt Municipal and Marrickville Councils – Comments by the NSW Local Government Boundaries Commission on the Report by the Delegate of the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Officer of Local Government*, Sydney.
[4] Morrison Low, 2015. *Merger Business Case Comparison*, Sydney.

Table 4 Council comparator data

	Marrickville Council (2015)	Ashfield Council (2015)	Leichhardt Council (2015)	Inner West Council (2020)
Full time equivalent staff (FTE)	536	180	434	1,035
Geographic area	10.3km^2	8.3km^2	16.5km^2	35.1km^2
Population	82,523	44,175	57,266	212,527
Population projection 2031[5]	102,300	53,400	67,550	223,250
Annual expenditure ('000s)	$100,536	$40,551	$77,101	$241,600
Number of councillors	12	12	12	15

The following map shows the Inner West local government area (LGA) as it is today, showing the location of the three former councils.

Figure 1 Inner West Council area[6]



[5] NSW Department of Planning and Environment, 2014. *New South Wales State and Local Government Area Population Projections: 2014 Final.*

[6] Local Government Boundaries Commission, 2016. *Proposed Merger of Ashfield, Leichhardt Municipal and Marrickville Councils – Comments but the NSW Local Government Boundaries Commission on the Report by the Delegate of the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Office of the Local Government*, Sydney, p.1.

2.1.3 The journey to de-amalgamate

The amalgamation proclamation was immediately met with community resistance. A month after the interim administrator handed over to the first elected council in September 2017, it called for investigations into a de-amalgamation, with the first motion on a potential public inquiry and the timings and costs of a possible plebiscite carried in October 2017.

In May 2021, the NSW Parliament passed the *Local Government Amendment Act 2021* (Amendment Act)[7], 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.

S218CC(6) of the Local Government Act also deals with the costs of the amalgamation as follows:

> *"The Minister is, by making grants under section 620 or using money otherwise appropriated by Parliament for the purpose, to ensure that the cost of any de-amalgamation of the new area resulting from a business case submitted under this section is fully funded."*

At the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 24 May 2021, the Inner West Council "*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;*

[7] 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."*

In July 2021, Morrison Low completed a high-level cost benefit assessment of a potential de-amalgamation. The assessment was included in information made available to the public, prior to community consultation and a poll in the 4 December 2021 council election.

The poll resulted in 62.5% of electors supporting a de-amalgamation. The community consultation was more mixed in its support of a de-amalgamation, with further commentary indicating there was some concern about how much a de-amalgamation would cost.

On 8 February 2022, the newly elected council resolved that Council "*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:*

1. *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;*
2. *Notes the overwhelming majority vote of the Inner West Community to demerge; and*
3. *Involve the community in the preparation of the business case."*

2.2 Scope

The development of the de-amalgamation business case was undertaken in two phases:

- Phase one (April – early June 2022): the development of a draft business case to be adopted by Council in June 2022.
- Phase two: finalise the business case after community and staff consultation.

Inner West Council has commissioned Morrison Low to develop the draft business case for phase one. Council will conduct the phase two community consultation and update the business case with this feedback.

There are no published requirements or guidelines for the development of a business case or proposal to de-amalgamate. In the absence of this, the NSW Government Business Case Guidelines have been utilised where it is appropriate to inform the structure and content of this de-amalgamation business case. The financial and commercial analysis sections outlined in the guidelines have been consolidated. This business case is considered a detailed business case under the NSW Government Business Case Guidelines and, as such, covers stages nought to two outlined in the guidelines.

This business case has been prepared for submission to the NSW Minister for Local Government, who under S218CC(2) of the Local Government Act is required to refer it to the Local Government Boundaries Commission (LGBC) within 28 days to conduct an inquiry and report on the proposal. The LGBC's role is defined under chapter nine, part three of the Local Government Act. S263(3) outlines the factors that the LGBC are required to consider as follows:

> *"When considering any matter referred to it that relates to the boundaries of areas or the areas of operations of county councils, the Boundaries Commission is required to have regard to the following factors –*

Table 5 Local Government Act chapter nine, part three - factors

Factor	Addressed in this report in the following sections:
a. the financial advantages or disadvantages (including the economies or diseconomies of scale) of any relevant proposal to the residents and ratepayers of the areas concerned	Section four: Cost benefit analysis
b. the community of interest and geographic cohesion in the existing areas and in any proposed new area	Section four: Cost benefit analysis
c. the existing historical and traditional values in the existing areas and the impact of change on them	Section four: Cost benefit analysis
d. the attitude of the residents and ratepayers of the areas concerned	Section three: The case for change
e. the requirements of the area concerned in relation to elected representation for residents and ratepayers at the local level, the desirable and appropriate relationship between elected representatives and ratepayers and residents and such other matters as it considers relevant in relation to the past and future patterns of elected representation for that area	Section four: Cost benefit analysis
e1. the impact of any relevant proposal on the ability of the councils of the areas concerned to provide adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities	Section four: Cost benefit analysis
e2. the impact of any relevant proposal on the employment of the staff by the councils of the areas concerned	Section six: Managerial analysis

Factor	Addressed in this report in the following sections:
e3. the impact of any relevant proposal on rural communities in the areas concerned	Not applicable (no rural communities)
e4. in the case of a proposal for the amalgamation of two or more areas, the desirability (or otherwise) of dividing the resulting area or areas into wards	Not applicable (not an amalgamation proposal)
e5. in the case of a proposal for the amalgamation of two or more areas, the need to ensure that the opinions of each of the diverse communities of the resulting area or areas are effectively represented	Not applicable (not an amalgamation proposal)
f. such other factors as it considers relevant to the provision of efficient and effective local government in the existing and proposed new areas."	Section four: Cost benefit analysis

The relevant factors have been considered in this business case, in the sections outlined above.

In July 2021, the then Minister for Local Government announced an independent statutory review into the provisions that govern the LGBC. However, to date there is no communicated time frame for when this review will be conducted. This business case is written under the assumption that the current provisions in the Local Government Act remain in place for LGBC to review the de-amalgamation proposal.

2.2.1 In scope for the business case

The high-level cost benefit assessment conducted in 2021 was used as a starting point for this business case. The analysis underlying this assessment has been reviewed as part of the development of this business case, and relevant parts of the cost benefit assessment report have been replicated in this document.

The business case includes:

- A review and updating of the financial analysis provided in the high-level cost benefit assessment from 2021, including:
  - estimating the ongoing financial costs and savings including changes to services
  - estimating the one-off transition costs, which it is assumed under S218CC(6) of the Local Government Act will be funded by the NSW State Government
  - predicting the financial performance of the de-amalgamated councils against the Office of Local Government (OLG) performance indicators over a ten-year period
  - estimating the net present value for all of the financial savings and costs of de-amalgamation.
- Identifying the non-financial benefits and cost of de-amalgamation including:
  - reviewing the perception of the performance of the Inner West Council
  - comparing each council's strategic direction through their Community Strategic Plans
  - considering the representation implications of de-amalgamation
  - reviewing community feedback on a de-amalgamation, including consultation in 2021 on the cost benefit assessment, the poll results and consultation undertaken on the draft of this business case.
- Analysing the risks associated with a de-amalgamation, including an analysis of impacts on key resources including people, assets, finances and information technology.

2.2.2 Out of scope for the business case

This business case does not include any detailed analysis or review of the 2016 decision to amalgamate the three councils, recognising that the NSW Boundaries Commission have noted in its most recent reviews that its role is "not to review the 2016 merger"[8]. However, some consideration has been given to the veracity of the claimed amalgamation net benefits identified in 2016.

2.3 Approach

Morrison Low has relied on past relevant de-amalgamation cases, processes used in the amalgamation and has made assumptions under which the de-amalgamation would occur (provided in Appendix A).

The most recent de-amalgamation of councils in Australia occurred in Queensland on 1 January 2014 and we have looked to these de-mergers for a guide to the possible costs and benefits that may occur in a de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council.

We have also considered the recent de-amalgamation proposals of Snowy Valleys and Cootamundra-Gundagai and the LGBC's determinations on these (including the dissenting reports).

The data used in preparing this report is largely based on publicly available information, namely financial statements, Long Term Financial Plans, Annual Reports, Asset Management Plans and Council reports, along with information from Inner West Council. Council provided information was 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.

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

To re-establish the former councils, Morrison Low used the validated 2015[9] modelling to create a pre-merger starting position. Each proposed council's position was created by using modelling for the six Inner West councils and validated by comparing the results of the three recreated councils to the three councils that have remained stand alone. Drawing on this work we established the starting financial and service/functional positions for each proposed council for 2019/20. Changes in service levels, costs, benefits, and new industry compliance obligations that have occurred since the Inner West amalgamation were identified and allocated to the proposed de-amalgamated councils. This process was extensively validated through consultation with relevant staff.

[8] NSW Local Government Boundaries Commission, 2021. *Examination of a proposal to alter the boundaries of the Cootamundra Gundagai local government area and create a new Local government area - Report by the Local Government Boundaries Commission to the Minister for Local Government.* Sydney, p.4. and
NSW Local Government Boundaries Commission, 2021. *Examination of a proposal to alter the boundaries of the Snowy Valleys local government area and create a new local government area - Report by the Local Government Boundaries Commission to the Minister for Local Government*. Sydney, p3.
[9] Morrison Low, 2015. *Inner West Council's Fit for the Future - Shared Modelling*. Sydney.

In July 2021, the then Minister for Local Government announced an independent statutory review into the provisions that govern the LGBC. However, to date there is no communicated time frame for when this review will be conducted. This business case is written under the assumption that the current provisions in the Local Government Act remain in place for LGBC to review the de-amalgamation proposal.

3 The case for change

The 2016 amalgamation of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils into the Inner West Council was an unpopular decision for some community members from the outset. The community has expressed a desire to return to the three former councils.

This has culminated in the poll conducted in the December 2021 council elections, which showed that 62.49% of electors supported a de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council. This proposal reflects the communities of the Inner West's right to self-determination and puts forward an objective business case to de-amalgamate, for consideration by the NSW Minister for Local Government and the NSW Local Government Boundaries Commission.

We estimate that a de-amalgamation will cost on average per rates assessment between $87 and $471 per annum, but the key benefits are not easily quantifiable. The comparison of financial (quantitative) benefits and qualitative benefits is a subjective one. It is ultimately the community's view of how they are balanced that matters.

We note that the analysis in this business case is not materially different from the cost benefit assessment undertaken in July 2021. That assessment was made public and was the subject of community consultation leading up to the poll. Despite the financial assessment indicating an overall cost, the community remained supportive of the de-amalgamation.

It has to be assumed from this that the community's perceived qualitative benefits of de-amalgamation outweigh the estimated financial costs.

This section outlines further the following factor under S263(3) of the Local Government Act that are required to be considered by the LGBC:

(d) the attitude of the residents and ratepayers of the areas concerned.

3.1 Community response to the amalgamation

The community's dissatisfaction with the amalgamation was expressed from the outset. The first meeting of the newly merged council was abandoned after it was taken over by protestors to the amalgamation. Since this time there has been a sustained campaign for the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council by self-organised groups such as Save Our Councils and Residents for De-amalgamation, supported by a variety of local and state politicians, as well as other groups like the Demerger NSW Alliance.

When the interim administrator of Inner West Council handed over to the first elected council in September 2017, the newly elected council quickly commenced investigations into a potential de-amalgamation. In October 2017, the Council resolved to investigate the potential for a public inquiry and plebiscite for a de-amalgamation.

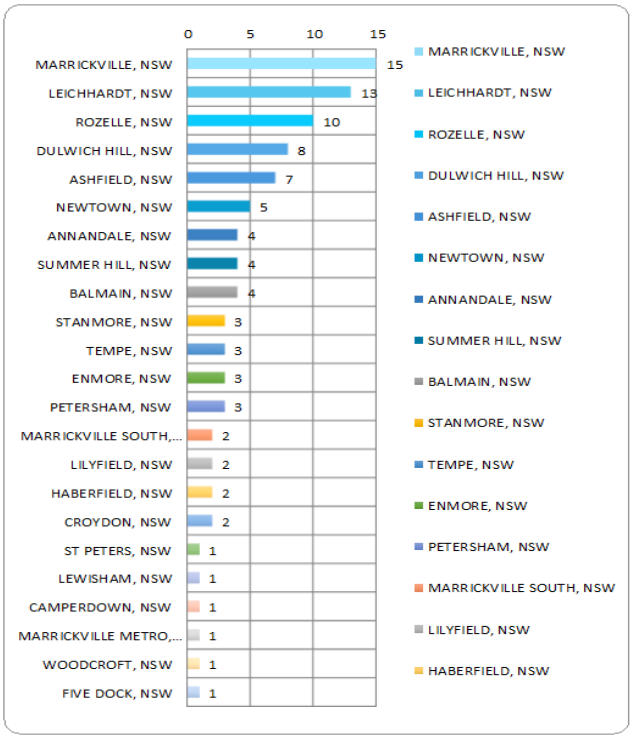
Over the last five years, community groups continued to mobilise and call for a plebiscite and there has been continued debate in council meetings to investigate the costs of de-amalgamation and a plebiscite. In May 2021, this resulted in the resolution to undertake a cost benefit assessment, investigate staff sentiment and to develop a de-amalgamation poll question for the next council election.

3.2 Results of 2021 community consultation on cost benefit assessment

In August 2021, the Council conducted community consultation on the de-amalgamation cost benefit assessment. The community was invited to provide feedback online via Council's engagement hub (*yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au*). The project was promoted through Council's website, social media channel, press release, Council's e-news and Your Say Inner West special bulletin.

Community feedback opened on 31 August 2021 and closed on 15 September 2021, a total of 413 participants viewed the project page and 122 participants responded to the survey. An additional 25 responses were received by email through an online petition tool called "the Action Network".

Figure 2 Geographic distribution of survey respondents



The feedback on de-amalgamation cost benefit was mixed, the key themes included[10]:

- de-amalgamation should be done at no cost to ratepayers who didn't want it at first
- unwillingness to want to pay additional costs for de-amalgamation
- the area is too large and too diverse to be managed under one 'banner'
- de-amalgamation will cause significant financial burden – economies of scale should prevail
- de-amalgamation is a costly exercise to ratepayers
- satisfied with fewer councillors serving a larger area
- de-amalgamation means more interruption and rate rises
- the only benefit reported is greater access to local councillors
- patently obvious that there is great cost and little benefit to de-amalgamation

[10] Inner West Council, 2021. *De-amalgamation cost benefit community consultation highlights.*

- a complete waste of the money spent on doing the amalgamation
- there are far more important issues to be spending time and money on
- de-amalgamation will be a long, arduous and expensive process – pure bureaucratic waste of funds
- will only result in an increase in costs and rates
- de-amalgamation is only good if ratepayers don't pay for it
- need to move on rather than live in the past
- services have deteriorated.

The community also provided feedback on the cost benefit assessment that has been considered in the development of this business case, including:

- inclusion of an option in the cost benefit analysis which considers going back to pre-merger service levels, where possible
- review of recent Local Government Boundaries Commission reports on previously considered de-amalgamation proposals
- provide a clearer executive summary for the community
- more information on qualitative benefits, including democratic representation
- investigate shared services options.

3.3 The de-amalgamation poll

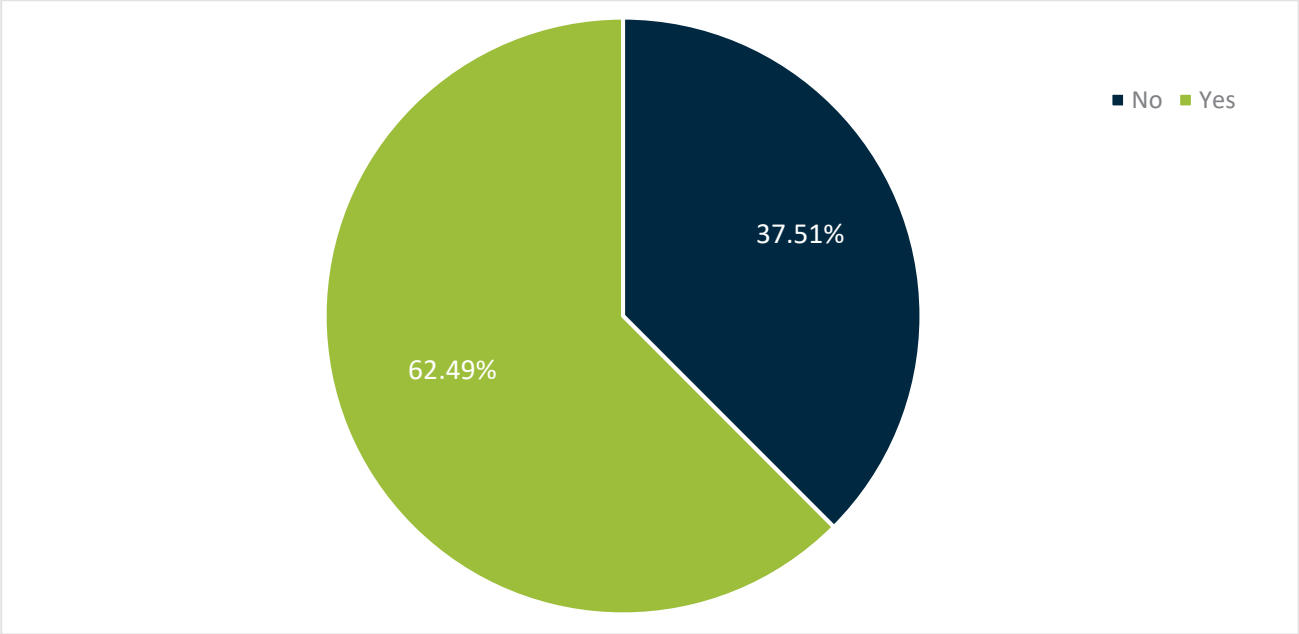
As part of the December 2021 council election, a poll was conducted for Inner West electors that asked:

> *In May 2016, Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville councils were amalgamated into one local government area by the State Government. Do you support the Inner West local government area being de-amalgamated, so as to restore the former local government areas of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville?*

Of the 106,950 votes representing 80.73% of registered voters, 2.55% were informal votes. Of the remaining 104,219 votes, 65,126 (62.49%) voted "yes" on the above question supporting a de-amalgamation and the remaining 39,093 (37.51%) voted "no".[11]

[11] NSW Electoral Commission, 2021. *Inner West Poll Election results.* Retrieved from https://pastvtr.elections.nsw.gov.au/LG2101/inner-west/poll on 3 May 2022.

Figure 3 Inner West de-amalgamation poll results



3.4 Results of 2022 community consultation on this business case (phase two)

In order to complete this business case, Council undertook community engagement to seek feedback on the current level of community satisfaction with Council, community priorities, reasons why the community wanted the de-amalgamation, and the preferred service levels as outlined within this business case.

As part of the preparation of the business case the following engagement was undertaken with the community:

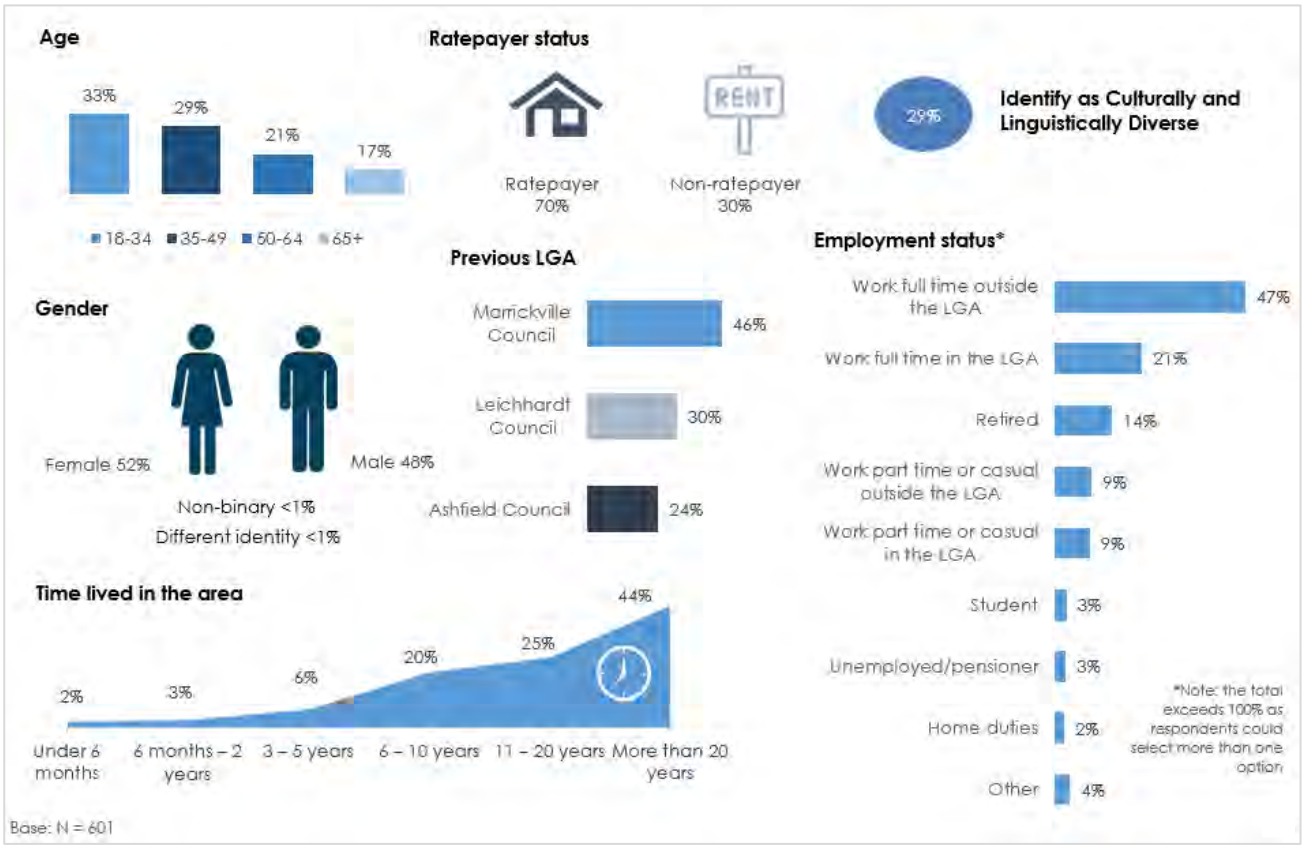
- A flyer letterboxed to all households was prepared by the same independent copywriter that developed the cost benefit analysis flyer in 2021 (not by Council staff) and was reviewed by an independent fact checker prior to distribution.
- The draft business case was placed on public exhibition for 28 days.
- The engagement for the draft business case was promoted via the following communication channels:
  - Council's website
  - social media
  - media release
  - Council's e-newsletter
  - Your Say Inner West
  - Inner West Newsletter
  - Council's column in the local newspaper.
- The Council invited submissions via Council's engagement hub (*yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au*) and also provided options to the community to provide feedback via:
  - paper survey

- phone or through the TIS and voice relay services.
- An online public forum was chaired by the general manager and attended by Morrison Low.

Details of the communications undertaken are provided in the campaign report in Appendix F. The online forum had 71 attendees, 21 of these registered with email addresses ending in "@innerwest.nsw.gov.au" identifying them as either staff or councillors. Of the remaining 50 participants, 14 registered with non-council email addresses and a further 36 joined anonymously (some of these may be duplicates). The forum was recorded and the recording was made available on Council's website for those that could not attend the live meeting. Details of the questions and comments posted in the forum are provided in Appendix G.

Additionally, Council engaged Micromex Research to conduct a phone survey of 601 residents to explore the community support for submitting a de-amalgamation business case to the Minister. The sample surveyed was weighted by age and gender to reflect the 2021 ABS community profile for the Inner West LGA, as well as weighted by the pre-merger LGA populations. As a result, the telephone survey results are statistically representative of the community with the greatest margin of error of +/- 4%.

Figure 4 Telephone survey sample profile

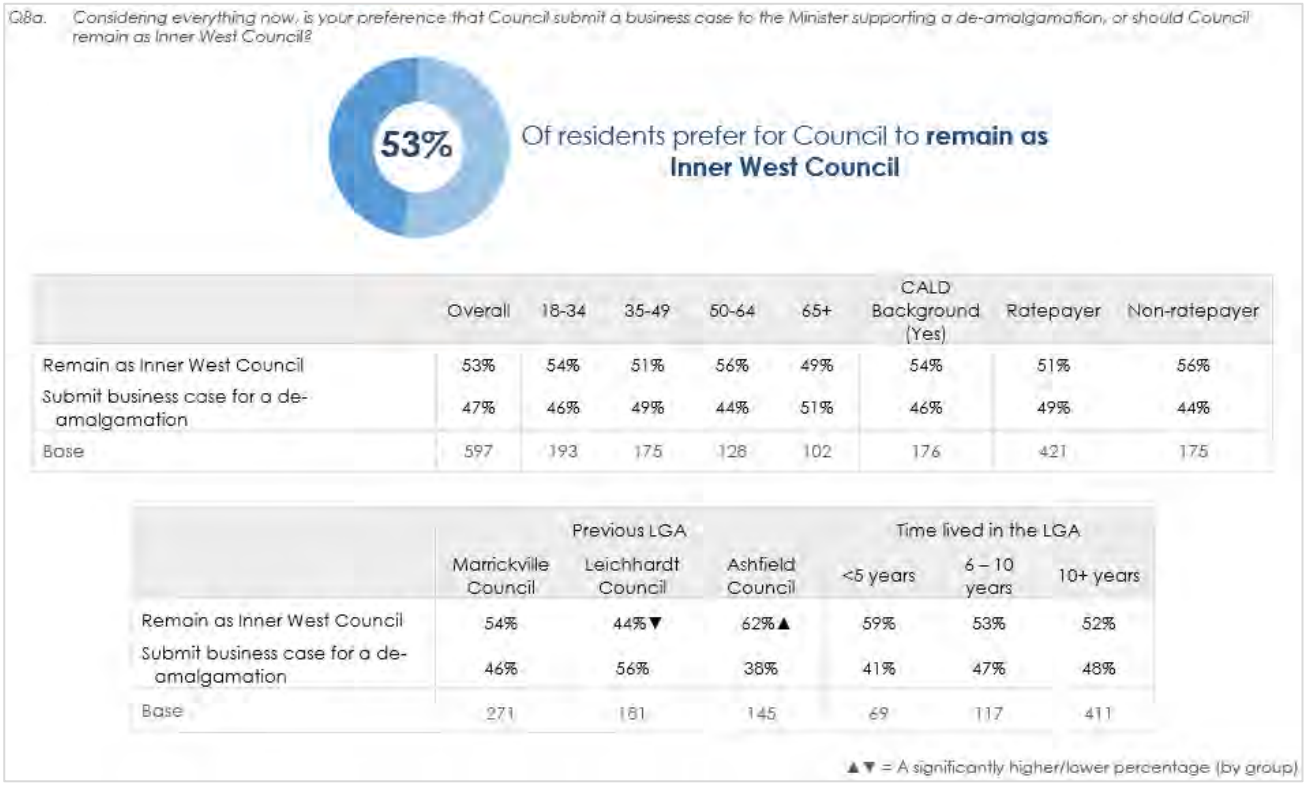


Council utilised the same questions for an online Your Say Inner West survey. As participants self-selected to respond, the results of the online survey cannot be considered statistically representative of the wider community.

From the telephone survey, 87% of respondents were at least somewhat satisfied with the performance of Inner West Council in the last 12 months. While 53% of telephone survey respondents prefer for Council to remain as Inner West Council. However, as the survey's greatest margin of error is +/- 4%, it is impossible to conclude with confidence that there is support for either remaining or de-amalgamating. Those in the former-Ashfield LGA were most supportive of remaining as Inner West Council. Support for submitting the de-amalgamation business case was greatest in Leichardt and generally increased with the respondent's age and length of time lived in the LGA.

The top reasons for remaining as the Inner West Council were the financial impact of de-amalgamation and the efficiency of service delivery and management under the current council. The top reasons given to submit the business case for de-amalgamation were that smaller council areas provide better management, services and facilities and that the amalgamated council has not provided any improved services or services have declined.

Figure 5 Telephone survey - preference for de-amalgamation or remaining Inner West Council



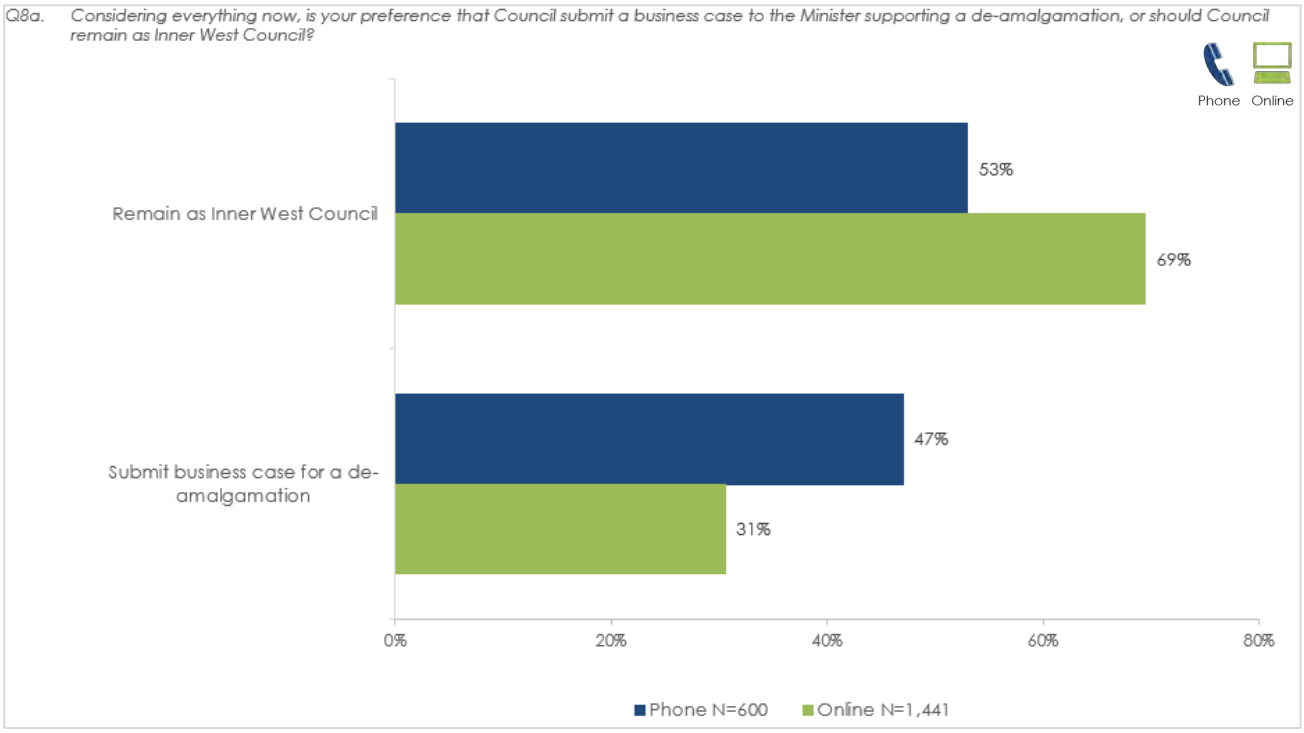
	Overall	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	CALD Background (Yes)	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Remain as Inner West Council	53%	54%	51%	56%	49%	54%	51%	56%
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	47%	46%	49%	44%	51%	46%	49%	44%
Base	597	193	175	128	102	176	421	175

	Previous LGA			Time lived in the LGA		
	Marrickville Council	Leichhardt Council	Ashfield Council	<5 years	6 – 10 years	10+ years
Remain as Inner West Council	54%	44%▼	62%▲	59%	53%	52%
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	46%	56%	38%	41%	47%	48%
Base	271	181	145	69	117	411

▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by group)

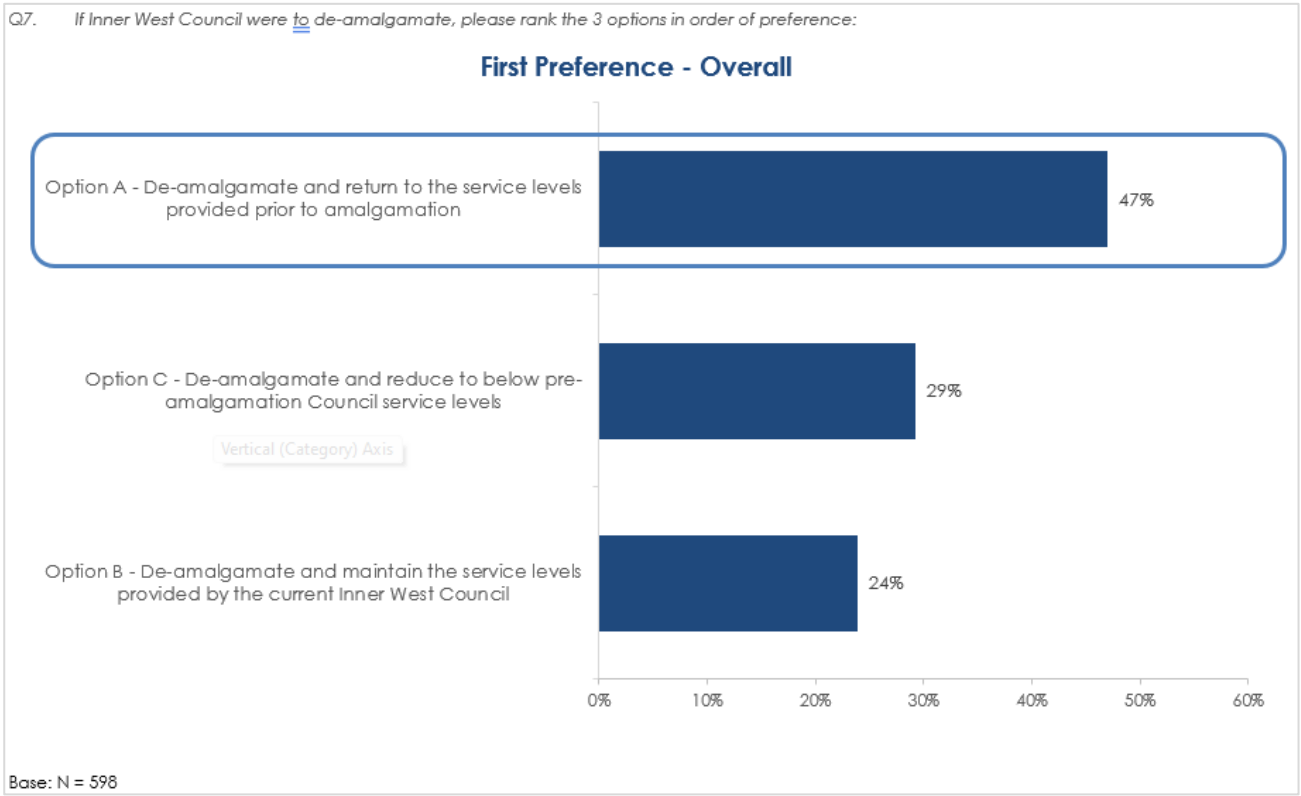
Respondents to the online survey were more supportive on remaining as Inner West Council, and this difference flowed through in many of the online survey results.

Figure 6 Telephone and online comparison – preferences for de-amalgamation or remaining Inner West Council



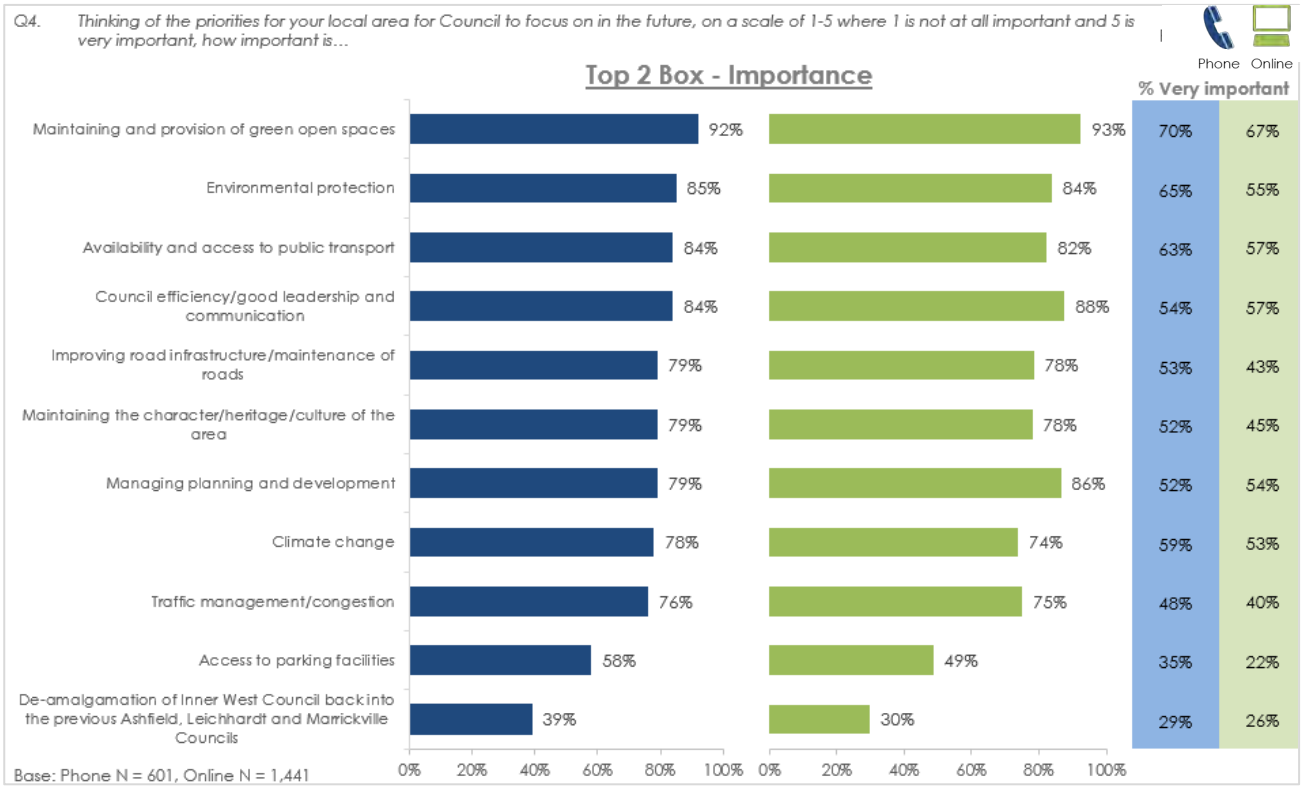
When considering the de-amalgamation options presented in the draft business case, telephone survey respondents showed a preference for option A - pre-merger service levels. As a result, the final business case has been updated to reflect this as their preferred option.

Figure 7 Telephone survey – preferred de-amalgamation option



Both telephone and online survey respondents prioritised many issues as significantly more important than de-amalgamation. As detailed in the following table blue telephone and green online survey results.

Figure 8 Telephone and online – priorities for Council to focus on in the local area



The full results for both surveys, including the unedited responses to open-ended questions, are provided in Appendices H, I, J, K and L. The community engagement also provided further insight into the benefits of the amalgamation, which is included in the relevant sections of this business case.

4 Cost benefit analysis

This section outlines the financial and qualitative (social, economic and environmental) costs and benefits of the proposed de-amalgamation of Inner West Council.

Three options for de-amalgamation have been investigated. Two of these, options A and B, which investigate different levels of service for the de-amalgamated councils, are modelled and compared to the base case, the current Inner West Council. A third option of shared services is considered but discounted after a review of the literature indicated there was little demonstrated benefit of shared services for NSW local government.

The analysis in this section addresses the following factors under S263(3) of the Local Government Act that are required to be considered by the LGBC:

The financial cost-benefit analysis addresses:

a. *the financial advantages or disadvantages (including the economies or diseconomies of scale) of any relevant proposal to the residents and ratepayers of the areas concerned*

e1. *the impact of any relevant proposal on the ability of the councils of the areas concerned to provide adequate, equitable and appropriate services and facilities.*

The qualitative analysis addresses:

b. *the community of interest and geographic cohesion in the existing areas and in any proposed new area*

c. *the existing historical and traditional values in the existing areas and the impact of change on them*

e. *the requirements of the area concerned in relation to elected representation for residents and ratepayers at the local level, the desirable and appropriate relationship between elected representatives and ratepayers and residents and such other matters as it considers relevant in relation to the past and future patterns of elected representation for that area*

f. *such other factors as it considers relevant to the provision of efficient and effective local government in the existing and proposed new areas.*

While the financial analysis of the de-amalgamation options may demonstrate a negative NPV, the quantum of the financial costs should be considered against the non-financial benefits identified.

4.1 Financial model fundamentals

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.

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 options.

We have modelled two scenarios:

- **Option A (preferred) - services and service levels prior to the amalgamation:** this scenario assumes that each de-amalgamated council reverts back to the services and service levels that were provided for that council prior to the 2016 amalgamation, where feasible. Some services that have been created post-amalgamation cannot be undone, and these remained in the model. Examples of these services include the Ashfield pool expansion, the new Leichhardt Park and Yirran Gumal childcare centres, and the introduction of the Emergency Services Levy.
- **Option B - current service and service levels of Inner West Council:** this scenario assumes each of the de-amalgamated councils 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). As a result, this scenario is the current services and service levels of Inner West Council delivered by the de-amalgamated councils.

A third option, **option C - shared services**, has been investigated but not modelled. There are many permutations of potential shared services, but as the analysis in section 4.5 (page 39) shows, a review of the academic and professional literature indicated that there was no demonstrated benefit in shared services in an Australian local government context.

The intention of the analysis is to identify the likely range of costs and benefits of de-amalgamation. We have not therefore identified a preferred option (that is either option A or B) as service levels of each of the de-amalgamated councils will be a decision for that council.

As under S218CC(6) of the Local Government Act one off transition costs are funded by the NSW Government, these have been modelled separately and are discussed in section five, 'Financial and commercial analysis', below. One-off transition costs are not expected to vary significantly between the modelled options. NPV calculations on each of the modelled options are provided inclusive and exclusive of the one-off transition costs.

4.1.1 Details of modelling

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.

This modelling has accounted for the changes in operating performance that would have occurred in the absence of the amalgamation, 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).

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. For this analysis, we have assumed the proposal is to return the councils to the shape and form that existed prior to the Inner West amalgamation.

The nominal de-amalgamation date for the purposes of this report is 1 July 2023.

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. The modelling assumes the executive structure and councillor numbers in place pre-amalgamation would be in place should the de-amalgamation occur. The estimated total costs of the executive structure for the three councils (three general managers and 12 director-level positions) are in the order of ~ $3.85 million per annum. For Inner West Council (one general manager and five director-level positions) they are estimated at ~ $1.9 million per annum.[12] Estimated councillor costs for the three de-amalgamated councils (36 councillors including three mayors) are ~ $880,000 per annum and for Inner West Council (15 councillors including a mayor) are ~ $556,000 per annum.[13]
3. We have used 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 2022/23.
4. 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 reasonable.
5. 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.

[12] McArthur, 2021. '2021- 2022 / Local Government National Remuneration Survey'. Additional remuneration information provided by Inner West Council.
[13] Data sourced from the NSW Local Government Remuneration Tribunal.

4.2 The base case - Inner West Council

The basis to compare the de-amalgamation options to is the 2021-22 financial position and 2022-23 Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) of the Inner West Council. The current LTFP shows Council starting to produce growing surpluses before capital items from 2023-24.

Table 6 Inner West Council 2022-23 LTFP Income Statement

($'000s)	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32
Income from continuing operations											
Rates and annual charges	161,162	165,444	168,305	171,529	175,055	178,752	183,040	186,635	190,277	193,988	197,826
User fees and charges	45,071	52,007	53,044	54,102	55,181	56,282	57,405	58,550	59,718	60,910	62,125
Interest and investment income	4,205	3,450	3,486	3,522	3,560	3,600	3,640	3,680	3,722	3,765	3,808
Other income	17,557	18,330	18,355	18,381	18,407	18,434	18,461	18,489	18,518	18,547	18,576
Rental income	4,785	5,809	8,092	7,814	7,226	7,370	7,518	7,668	7,821	7,978	8,137
Grants & contributions – operating	10,006	9,310	9,310	10,275	9,260	9,260	9,260	10,225	9,260	9,260	9,260
Grants & contributions – capital	25,054	28,928	44,198	14,993	13,393	13,143	13,143	13,036	13,143	13,143	13,143
Gain/loss on disposal of assets	1,606	-1,582	-1,638	-1,912	- 728	-368	-874	-1,488	-1,321	-796	207
Total income	**266,233**	**281,696**	**303,152**	**278,706**	**281,355**	**286,474**	**291,593**	**296,797**	**301,139**	**306,795**	**313,084**
Expenses from continuing operations											
Employee benefits and oncosts	120,930	127,200	130,176	132,853	136,195	139,565	143,021	146,565	150,200	153,927	157,750
Borrowing costs	979	860	792	724	680	639	597	555	511.00	466	421
Materials and contracts	78,383	79,360	79,092	81,065	80,412	80,928	81,454	83,300	82,653	83,287	84,007
Depreciation	31,983	33,104	33,650	34,360	35,021	35,487	36,180	36,809	37,340	37,751	38,029
Other expenses	13,300	12,988	13,063	13,138	13,214	13,292	13,371	13,451	13,532	13,614	13,698
Total expenses	**245,574**	**253,513**	**256,771**	**262,140**	**265,522**	**269,912**	**274,623**	**280,680**	**284,236**	**289,045**	**293,904**
Net operating result	**20,659**	**28,183**	**46,380**	**16,565**	**15,833**	**16,563**	**16,970**	**16,117**	**16,903**	**17,750**	**19,180**
Net operating result before capital items	**-4,395**	**-744**	**2,182**	**1,572**	**2,440**	**3,419**	**3,826**	**3,081**	**3,760**	**4,607**	**6,036**

Council's LTFP also demonstrates that it is meeting all the key financial ratios, except for the asset maintenance ratio. However, Council plans to spend more on asset renewal to improve asset conditions.

Table 7 Inner West 2022-23 LTFP financial performance ratios

	Benchmark	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32
Operating performance ratio	>0	-1.8%	-0.3%	0.8%	0.6%	0.9%	1.3%	1.4%	1.1%	1.3%	1.6%	2.0%
Own source operating revenue	>60%	86.8%	86.4%	82.4%	90.9%	92.0%	92.2%	92.3%	92.2%	92.6%	92.7%	92.8%
Unrestricted current ratio	>1.5x	3.7	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.6
Rates and annual charges outstanding ratio	<5%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.2%	3.2%	3.2%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.0%
Cash expense cover ratio	>3 months	15.1	8.5	7.1	6.6	6.4	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.6	6.7	6.8
Infrastructure renewal ratio	>100%	66.0%	163.0%	143.0%	119.0%	106.0%	101.0%	106.0%	108.0%	100.0%	99.0%	96.0%
Asset maintenance ratio	>100%	64.0%	61.0%	59.0%	60.0%	61.0%	61.0%	62.0%	63.0%	64.0%	64.0%	65.0%

The 2022-23 LTFP demonstrates that Inner West Council is in a strong financial position and is meeting the Fit for the Future financial benchmarks. It is one of the few merged councils in this position. The two de-amalgamation options are compared to this current state LTFP to determine the net present value of each.

4.3 Option A (preferred) - pre-merger services and service levels

This option modelled growth of revenues and expenses from the assumed date of de-amalgamation on the basis that the de-amalgamated councils revert to their pre-merger service levels where feasible. This option was identified as the preferred option for 47% of telephone survey respondents in the survey undertaken to seek feedback on the draft of this business case in July 2022.

We have 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 that cannot be undone, including:

- new/additional compliance requirements that have come into force since the 2016 amalgamation
- capital expenditure and asset renewals delivered.

The table below provides an outline of how these costs and revenues have been distributed to the de-amalgamated councils.

Table 8 Distribution approaches - option A

Basis of distribution	Distribution approach	Sample of changes
Population	Inner West costs allocated pro-rata to NSW Planning's 2016 reported population of each former council.	• Emergency Services Levy introduction
Allocated entirely to a specific council	To an individual council where a service change solely impacts one council.	• Ashfield Aquatic Centre debt and staffing • Leichhardt Park Child Care Centre • Yirran Gumal Early Learning Centre, Steel Park
Per council	Allocated based on same cost/service change regardless of size.	• IT, HR and project management resourcing costs

4.3.1 Ongoing costs and benefits allocation

The following table is a summary of the allocation of all adjustment to income, costs and services allocated to the proposed de-amalgamated councils, using the distribution approach detailed above.

Table 9 Changes to ongoing costs and benefits - option A

($'000s)	Ashfield	Leichhardt	Marrickville	Total distributed
Income from continuing operations				
Rates & annual charges	0	0	0	0
User fees & charges	3,967	1,704	645	6,316
Interest and investment income	0	0	0	0
Other income	0	0	0	0
Grants & contributions - operations	0	0	0	0
Grants & contributions - capital	0	0	0	0
Total income	**3,967**	**1,704**	**645**	**6,316**
Expenses from continuing operations				
Employee benefits & oncosts	2,721	1,564	-152	4,133
Borrowing costs	1,100	0	0	1,100
Depreciation	805	62	787	1,654
All other expenses	3,133	2,888	3,219	9,240
Total expenses	**7,759**	**4,514**	**3,854**	**16,127**
Operating result	**-3792**	**-2810**	**-3209**	**-9811**

The consequential impact of the total net de-amalgamation costs per rateable assessment is illustrated in the following table.

Table 10 Costs impacts per rate assessment - option A

	Ashfield	Leichhardt	Marrickville
Recurring costs ($'000s)	$3,792	$2,810	$3,209
Rate assessments	17,463	25,348	36,678
Cost per rates assessment	**$217**	**$111**	**$87**

4.3.2 Long-term financial projections

The estimated projected operating result for each proposed de-amalgamated council is detailed in the following tables. All three councils are projected to make deficits (excluding capital items) that slowly reduce over the ten-year period. This is a result of increased costs for the new facilities in each council area, as well as increased cost burden for some services.

Both Ashfield and Marrickville reported operating deficits in the years prior to the amalgamation. As Leichhardt reported surpluses prior to amalgamation, it is projected to return to surpluses faster. Marrickville is projected to experience the highest deficits, which is partly due to the expiry of their special rate variation in the amalgamation period.

Table 11 Ashfield Council - income statement - option A

($000)	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
Income from continuing operations											
Rates and annual charges	37,270	38,147	39,118	40,122	41,189	42,404	43,654	45,067	46,574	47,899	49,259
User charges and fees	8,215	8,543	8,883	9,212	9,552	9,903	10,265	10,640	11,068	11,511	11,969
Interest and investment inome	1,206	634	326	81	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	2,630	2,696	2,763	2,832	2,903	2,976	3,050	3,126	3,205	3,285	3,367
Grants and contributions - operating	2,447	2,508	2,571	2,635	2,701	2,769	2,838	2,909	2,982	3,056	3,133
Grants and contributions - capital	184	184	184	184	184	184	184	184	184	184	184
Total Income	**51,953**	**52,713**	**53,846**	**55,066**	**56,529**	**58,235**	**59,991**	**61,926**	**64,012**	**65,935**	**67,911**
Expenses from continuing operations											
Employee benefits and oncosts	25,254	25,886	26,533	27,196	27,876	28,573	29,287	30,019	30,770	31,539	32,328
Borrowing costs	1,161	1,114	1,064	1,014	964	911	854	803	743	681	617
Materials and contracts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	7,757	8,108	8,460	8,806	9,159	9,498	9,844	10,194	10,549	10,813	11,083
Other expenses	20,643	21,159	21,688	22,230	22,786	23,356	23,940	24,538	25,152	25,780	26,425
Total Expenses	**54,815**	**56,267**	**57,744**	**59,247**	**60,785**	**62,337**	**63,925**	**65,554**	**67,213**	**68,813**	**70,453**
Net Operating Result	**(2,862)**	**(3,555)**	**(3,898)**	**(4,182)**	**(4,256)**	**(4,102)**	**(3,934)**	**(3,628)**	**(3,201)**	**(2,878)**	**(2,542)**
Net operating result beforecapital items	**(3,046)**	**(3,739)**	**(4,082)**	**(4,366)**	**(4,440)**	**(4,286)**	**(4,118)**	**(3,812)**	**(3,385)**	**(3,062)**	**(2,726)**

Table 12 Leichhardt Council - income statement - option A

($000)	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
Income from continuing operations											
Rates and annual charges	57,353	58,708	60,209	61,757	63,403	65,278	67,206	69,385	71,712	73,759	75,860
User charges and fees	20,076	20,786	21,518	22,237	22,978	23,742	24,530	25,343	26,251	27,188	28,155
Interest and investment income	1,026	621	351	186	21	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	6,752	6,921	7,094	7,271	7,453	7,640	7,831	8,026	8,227	8,433	8,643
Grants and contributions - operating	6,681	6,848	7,019	7,195	7,375	7,559	7,748	7,942	8,140	8,344	8,552
Grants and contributions - capital	2,687	2,687	2,687	2,687	2,687	2,687	2,687	2,687	2,687	2,687	2,687
Total Income	**94,575**	**96,571**	**98,879**	**101,333**	**103,918**	**106,906**	**110,002**	**113,383**	**117,017**	**120,411**	**123,898**
Expenses from continuing operations											
Employee benefits and oncosts	50,818	52,088	53,391	54,725	56,094	57,496	58,933	60,407	61,917	63,465	65,051
Borrowing costs	151	157	152	157	162	167	162	185	180	175	171
Materials and contracts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation and amortisation	11,098	11,502	11,883	12,277	12,670	13,062	13,461	13,868	14,285	14,642	15,008
Other expenses	34,090	34,942	35,815	36,711	37,629	38,569	39,533	40,522	41,535	42,573	43,638
Total Expenses	**96,156**	**98,689**	**101,240**	**103,871**	**106,554**	**109,294**	**112,090**	**114,982**	**117,916**	**120,855**	**123,867**
Net Operating Result	**(1,581)**	**(2,118)**	**(2,361)**	**(2,537)**	**(2,636)**	**(2,388)**	**(2,088)**	**(1,599)**	**(899)**	**(444)**	**31**
Net operating result before capital items	**(4,268)**	**(4,805)**	**(5,048)**	**(5,224)**	**(5,323)**	**(5,075)**	**(4,775)**	**(4,286)**	**(3,586)**	**(3,131)**	**(2,656)**

Table 13 Marrickville Council - income statement - option A

($000)	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
Income from continuing operations											
Rates and annual charges	73,094	74,947	76,988	79,053	81,245	83,730	86,284	89,161	92,297	95,082	97,939
User charges and fees	19,800	20,591	21,409	22,202	23,021	23,867	24,741	25,643	26,675	27,742	28,846
Interest and investment income	1,204	565	136	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	15,021	15,396	15,781	16,176	16,580	16,995	17,419	17,855	18,301	18,759	19,228
Grants and contributions - operating	6,682	6,849	7,020	7,196	7,376	7,560	7,749	7,943	8,142	8,345	8,554
Grants and contributions - capital	5,969	5,969	5,969	5,969	5,969	5,969	5,969	5,969	5,969	5,969	5,969
Total Income	**121,770**	**124,317**	**127,304**	**130,595**	**134,190**	**138,120**	**142,162**	**146,571**	**151,384**	**155,897**	**160,535**
Expenses from continuing operations											
Employee benefits and oncosts	62,111	63,664	65,256	66,887	68,559	70,273	72,030	73,831	75,676	77,568	79,508
Borrowing costs	58	61	59	61	63	64	63	71	70	68	66
Materials and contracts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	14,448	14,974	15,471	15,992	16,505	17,020	17,542	18,076	18,621	19,087	19,564
Other expenses	50,428	51,689	52,981	54,306	55,663	57,055	58,481	59,943	61,442	62,978	64,552
Total Expenses	**127,046**	**130,387**	**133,767**	**137,245**	**140,790**	**144,412**	**148,116**	**151,921**	**155,809**	**159,701**	**163,690**
Net Operating Result	**(5,276)**	**(6,070)**	**(6,463)**	**(6,650)**	**(6,599)**	**(6,292)**	**(5,953)**	**(5,350)**	**(4,425)**	**(3,804)**	**(3,155)**
Net operating result before capital items	**(11,245)**	**(12,039)**	**(12,432)**	**(12,619)**	**(12,568)**	**(12,261)**	**(11,922)**	**(11,319)**	**(10,394)**	**(9,773)**	**(9,124)**

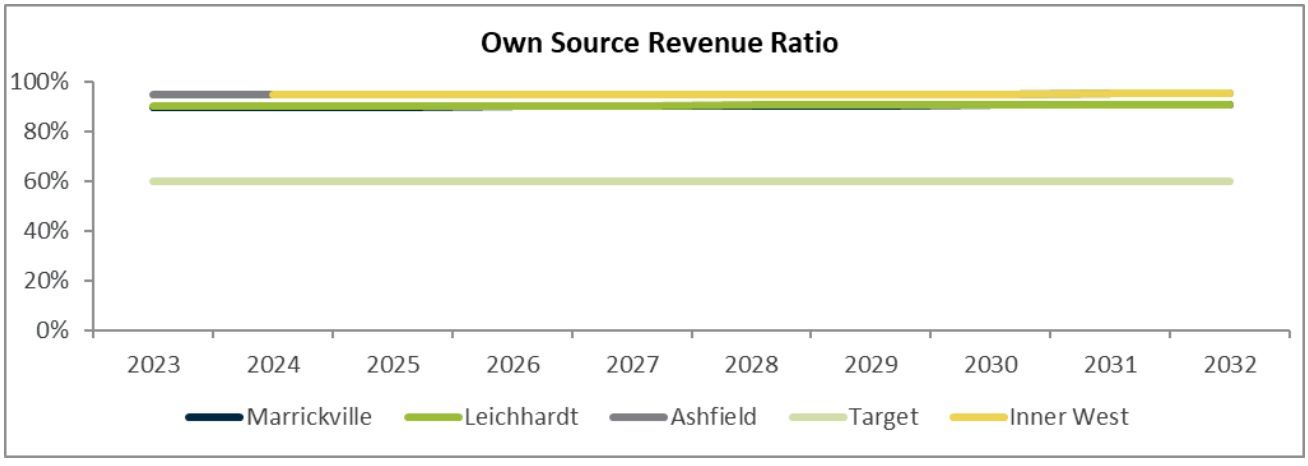
4.3.3 Financial performance ratios

The performance of each council is measured against Office of Local Government performance indicators. The graphs below show the estimated performance results for the three proposed de-amalgamated councils in comparison to Inner West Council's projected performance as per their 2022-23 LTFP across some of the key ratios. Key ratios definitions are provided in Appendix D.

Inner West Council is projecting modest surpluses in their 2022-23 LTFP and therefore project an operating performance ratio above the benchmark of 0% from 2023-24 onward. The three proposed de-amalgamated councils are projected to incur deficits and therefore negative operating performance ratios over the period. All councils are expected to generate revenues from their own sources (rates and charges) well above the benchmark set at 60% of total revenue.

Figure 9 Operating performance ratio - option A

Figure 10 Own source revenue ratio



As part of its 2022-23 LTFP, the Inner West Council is utilising its projected surpluses to invest into asset renewal and reduction of asset backlog. As a result, it is projecting a strong asset renewal ratio above the benchmark of 100% and a reduction in its asset backlog ratio approaching 0%, well below the 2% benchmark.

As the three proposed de-amalgamated councils will project deficits over the period, their asset renewal will not meet the benchmark, as they do not have the surpluses to invest in asset renewal.

The three proposed de-amalgamated councils are projected to maintain their asset maintenance ratios at or close to the benchmark of 100%. While the Inner West Council is projecting a lower ratio, it is also projected a strong asset renewal program and that reduces its backlog to close to 0%. This allows Inner West to absorb a lower asset maintenance ratio without risking deteriorating asset conditions.

Figure 11 Infrastructure renewal ratio - option A

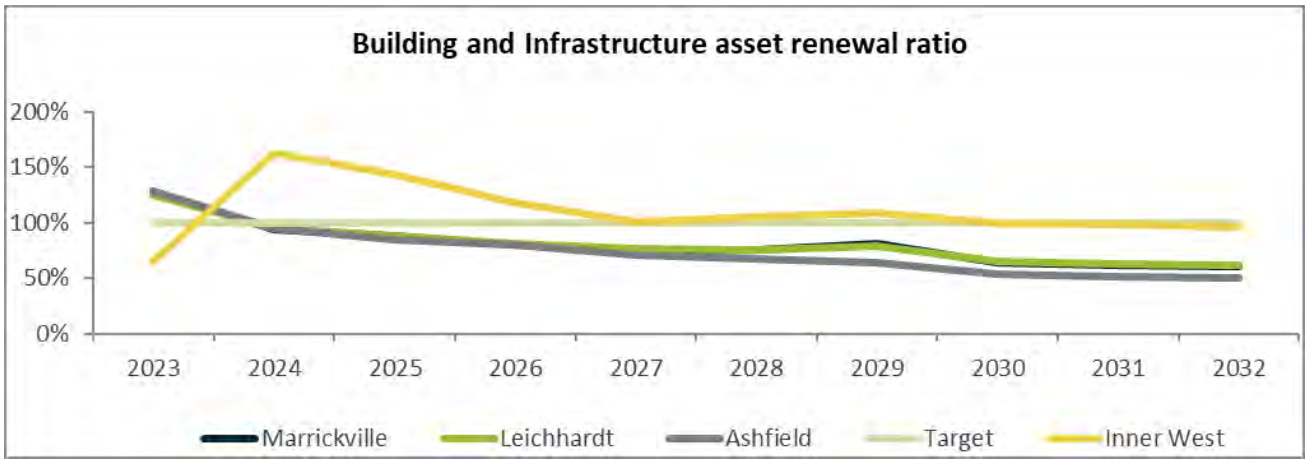
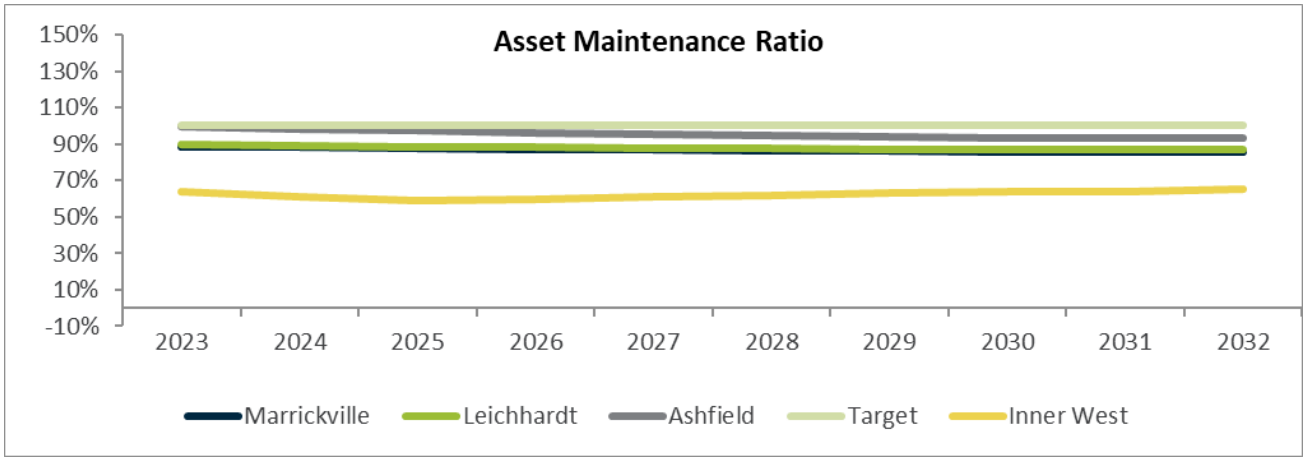


Figure 12 Asset maintenance ratio - option A



4.4 Option B - current Inner West services and service levels

This option 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 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 service levels that have been implemented by Inner West Council
- new/additional compliance requirements that have come into force since the 2016 amalgamation
- capital expenditure and asset renewals delivered
- additional debt.

In order to distribute these changes amongst the three proposed de-amalgamated councils, we have developed 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 below. Distribution sensitivity testing was undertaken as part of the initial high-level cost benefit assessment in 2021, which showed the use of population and rate assessment approaches equalised the distribution rather than amplifying changes in services/obligations for each of the proposed councils.

Table 14 Distribution approaches - option B

Basis of distribution	Distribution approach	Sample of changes
Population	Inner West costs allocated pro-rata to NSW Planning's 2016 reported population of each former council.	• Changes to fees and charges • Emergency Services Levy introduction • Changes to library operating costs and similar front line service delivery costs
Rate assessments	Allocated based on rate assessment numbers of each council based on 2016 financial year statements.	• Ongoing IT costs from de-amalgamation • Audit costs • Back of house services
Allocated entirely to a specific council	To an individual council where a service change solely impacts one council.	• Ashfield Aquatic Centre debt and staffing • Leichhardt Park Child Care Centre • Yirran Gumal ELC Steel Park • Harmonisation of service levels impacting individual councils (e.g. verge mowing)
Per council	Allocated based on same cost/service change regardless of size.	• Corporate infrastructure - branding, policy development, etc • Integrated planning and reporting development • Community engagement costs • IT, HR and project management resourcing costs

Basis of distribution	Distribution approach	Sample of changes
Proportion	Based on operational requirements of the service.	• New/increased animal service • New/increased fire safety service • New/increase building certification service
Staff numbers	Allocated by former council staff numbers for the 2016 financial year.	• Redundancy and recruitment costs • Software licence costs

4.4.1 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 above. 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 amalgamation, for details refer Appendix B.

Table 15 Changes to ongoing costs and benefits - option B

Income statement ($'000s)	Ashfield	Leichhardt	Marrickville	Total distributed
Income from continuing operations				
Rates & annual charges	-1,276	-1,971	-4,053	-7,300
User fees & charges	3,693	1,320	-122	4,891
Interest and investment income	0	0	0	0
Other income	0	0	0	0
Grants & contributions - operations	0	0	0	0
Grants & contributions - capital	0	0	0	0
Total income	**2,417**	**-651**	**-4,175**	**-2,409**
Expenses from continuing operations				
Employee benefits	5,286	2,439	1,950	9,675
Borrowing costs	1,100	0	0	1,100
Depreciation	805	62	787	1,654
All other expenses	3,453	2,534	3,980	9,967
Total expenses	**10,644**	**5,035**	**6,717**	**22,396**
Operating result	**-8,227**	**-5,686**	**-10,892**	**-24,805**

The impact of the total net de-amalgamation costs per rateable assessment is illustrated in the following table.

Table 16 Total net de-amalgamation costs per rateable assessment

	Ashfield	Leichhardt	Marrickville
Recurring costs ($'000s)	$8,227	$5,686	$10,892
Rate assessments	17,463	25,348	36,678
Cost per rates assessment	**$471**	**$224**	**$297**

4.4.2 Long-term financial projections

The estimated projected operating result for each proposed de-amalgamated council is detailed in the following tables. All amounts are in thousands ($,000s).

- Like option A, all three councils are projected to make deficits (excluding capital items) that slowly reduce over the ten-year period.
- However, the scale of these deficits is greater than in option A. This is a result of Inner West Council harmonising service delivery across some services to the higher service level of the three former councils. Each of the proposed de-amalgamated councils will, under this scenario have, some services and deliver some services to a higher service level than they did before the amalgamation.

Table 17 Ashfield Council - income statement - option B

($000)	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
Income from continuing operations											
Rates and annual charges	37,270	38,147	39,118	40,122	41,189	42,404	43,654	45,067	46,574	47,899	49,259
User charges and fees	8,015	8,320	8,635	8,943	9,260	9,587	9,925	10,274	10,669	11,077	11,500
Interest and investment income	1,015	337	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	2,630	2,696	2,763	2,832	2,903	2,976	3,050	3,126	3,205	3,285	3,367
Grants and contributions - operating	2,447	2,508	2,571	2,635	2,701	2,769	2,838	2,909	2,982	3,056	3,133
Grants and contributions - capital	184	184	184	184	184	184	184	184	184	184	184
Total Income	**51,561**	**52,192**	**53,272**	**54,716**	**56,237**	**57,920**	**59,651**	**61,560**	**63,614**	**65,502**	**67,442**
Expenses from continuing operations											
Employee benefits and oncosts	27,949	28,647	29,364	30,098	30,850	31,621	32,412	33,222	34,053	34,904	35,777
Borrowing costs	1,161	1,114	1,064	1,014	964	911	854	803	743	681	617
Materials and contracts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	7,757	8,108	8,460	8,806	9,159	9,498	9,844	10,194	10,549	10,813	11,083
Other expenses	20,979	21,504	22,041	22,592	23,157	23,736	24,329	24,938	25,561	26,200	26,855
Total Expenses	**57,845**	**59,373**	**60,928**	**62,511**	**64,130**	**65,766**	**67,439**	**69,156**	**70,906**	**72,598**	**74,332**
Net Operating Result	**-6,284**	**-7,182**	**-7,656**	**-7,795**	**-7,893**	**-7,846**	**-7,789**	**-7,596**	**-7,292**	**-7,096**	**-6,890**
Net Operating Result before capital items	**-6,468**	**-7,366**	**-7,840**	**-7,979**	**-8,077**	**-8,030**	**-7,973**	**-7,780**	**-7,476**	**-7,280**	**-7,074**

Table 18 Leichhardt Council - income statement - option B

($000)	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
Income from continuing operations											
Rates and annual charges	57,353	58,708	60,209	61,757	63,403	65,278	67,206	69,385	71,712	73,759	75,860
User charges and fees	19,794	20,480	21,189	21,885	22,603	23,344	24,107	24,894	25,769	26,672	27,605
Interest and investment income	948	509	210	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	6,752	6,921	7,094	7,271	7,453	7,640	7,831	8,026	8,227	8,433	8,643
Grants and contributions - operating	6,681	6,848	7,019	7,195	7,375	7,559	7,748	7,942	8,140	8,344	8,552
Grants and contributions - capital	2,687	2,687	2,687	2,687	2,687	2,687	2,687	2,687	2,687	2,687	2,687
Total Income	**94,215**	**96,154**	**98,408**	**100,809**	**103,522**	**106,508**	**109,578**	**112,933**	**116,535**	**119,895**	**123,347**
Expenses from continuing operations											
Employee benefits and oncosts	51,736	53,030	54,356	55,715	57,107	58,535	59,998	61,498	63,036	64,612	66,227
Borrowing costs	151	157	152	157	162	167	162	185	180	175	171
Materials and contracts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	11,098	11,502	11,883	12,277	12,670	13,062	13,461	13,868	14,285	14,642	15,008
Other expenses	33,717	34,560	35,424	36,310	37,218	38,148	39,102	40,079	41,081	42,108	43,161
Total Expenses	**96,702**	**99,249**	**101,814**	**104,459**	**107,157**	**109,912**	**112,723**	**115,631**	**118,582**	**121,537**	**124,567**
Net Operating Result	**-2,487**	**-3,095**	**-3,406**	**-3,650**	**-3,635**	**-3,405**	**-3,145**	**-2,698**	**-2,047**	**-1,642**	**-1,219**
Net Operating Result before capital items	**-5,174**	**-5,782**	**-6,093**	**-6,337**	**-6,322**	**-6,092**	**-5,832**	**-5,385**	**-4,734**	**-4,329**	**-3,906**

Table 19 Marrickville Council - income statement - option B

($000)	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033
Income from continuing operations											
Rates and annual charges	71,534	73,354	75,358	77,383	79,534	81,971	84,476	87,297	90,375	93,110	95,915
User charges and fees	19,179	19,918	20,681	21,424	22,191	22,982	23,800	24,644	25,602	26,593	27,617
Interest and investment income	877	60	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other income	15,021	15,396	15,781	16,176	16,580	16,995	17,419	17,855	18,301	18,759	19,228
Grants and contributions - operating	6,682	6,849	7,020	7,196	7,376	7,560	7,749	7,943	8,142	8,345	8,554
Grants and contributions - capital	5,969	5,969	5,969	5,969	5,969	5,969	5,969	5,969	5,969	5,969	5,969
Total Income	**119,262**	**121,546**	**124,810**	**128,148**	**131,650**	**135,478**	**139,414**	**143,707**	**148,389**	**152,776**	**157,283**
Expenses from continuing operations											
Employee benefits and oncosts	64,319	65,927	67,575	69,264	70,996	72,771	74,590	76,455	78,366	80,325	82,334
Borrowing costs	58	61	59	61	63	64	63	71	70	68	66
Materials and contracts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	14,448	14,974	15,471	15,992	16,505	17,020	17,542	18,076	18,621	19,087	19,564
Other expenses	51,229	52,510	53,823	55,169	56,548	57,961	59,410	60,896	62,418	63,979	65,578
Total Expenses	**130,055**	**133,472**	**136,928**	**140,485**	**144,111**	**147,817**	**151,605**	**155,498**	**159,475**	**163,459**	**167,542**
Net Operating Result	**-10,793**	**-11,926**	**-12,118**	**-12,337**	**-12,461**	**-12,339**	**-12,191**	**-11,791**	**-11,086**	**-10,683**	**-10,259**
Net Operating Result before capital items	**-16,762**	**-17,895**	**-18,087**	**-18,306**	**-18,430**	**-18,308**	**-18,160**	**-17,760**	**-17,055**	**-16,652**	**-16,228**

4.4.3 Financial performance ratios

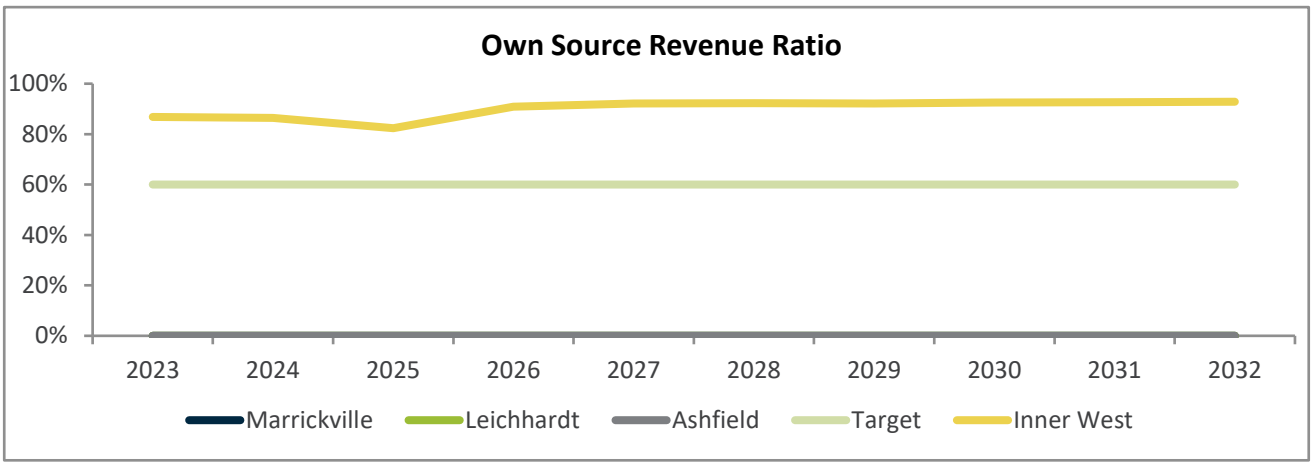
The performance of each council is measured against Office of Local Government performance indicators. The graphs below show the estimated performance results for the three proposed de-amalgamated councils in comparison to Inner West Council's projected performance as per their 2022-23 LTFP across some of the key ratios. Key ratio definitions are provided in Appendix D.

The trends in financial performance ratios are similar to that of option A, but the difference between Inner West and the proposed de-amalgamated councils is greater under option B.

Inner West Council projects modest surpluses in their 2022-23 LTFP and therefore projects an operating performance ratio above the benchmark of 0% from 2023-24 onward. The three proposed de-amalgamated councils are projected to incur deficits and therefore negative operating performance ratios over the period. All councils are expected to generate revenue from their own sources (rates and charges) well above the 60% benchmark.

Figure 13 Operating performance ratio - option B

Figure 14 Own source revenue ratio - option B



As part of its 2022-23 LTFP, the Inner West Council is utilising its projected surpluses to invest into asset renewal and reduction of asset backlog. As a result, it is projecting a strong asset renewal ratio above the benchmark of 100% and a reduction in its asset backlog ratio to 0% by 2023-24, well below the 2% benchmark. As the three proposed de-amalgamated councils will project deficits over the period, their asset renewal will not meet benchmarks, as they do not have the surpluses to invest in asset renewal.

The three proposed de-amalgamated councils are projected to maintain their asset maintenance ratios at or close to the benchmark of 100%. While the Inner West Council is projecting a lower ratio, it is unlikely to impact asset condition with a projected strong asset renewal program and a 0% backlog.

Figure 15 Asset renewal ratio - option B

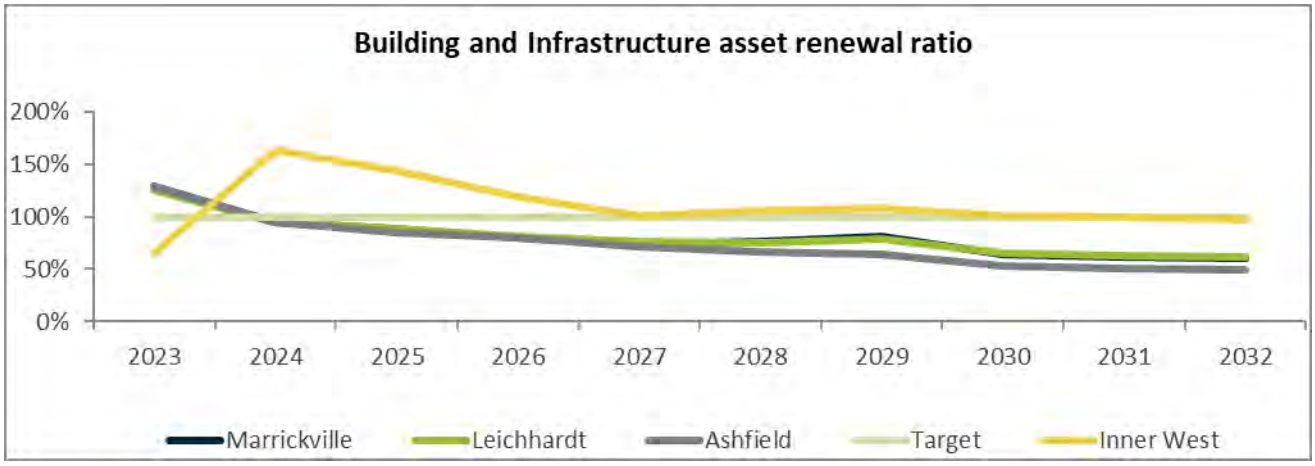
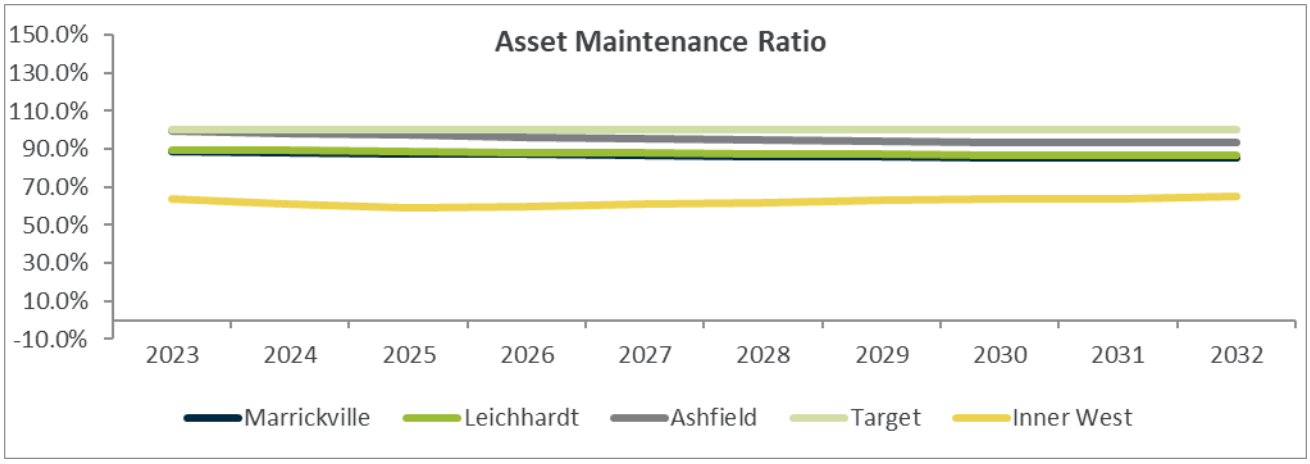


Figure 16 Asset maintenance ratio - option B



4.5 Option C - potential shared services

Shared services are two or more councils jointly managing activities to deliver services or perform back-office functions.[14] There are innumerable permutations of what and how shared services can be delivered. The key considerations for share service arrangements, which drive the variety of options and outcomes are:

- What services to share?

[14] Audit Office of New South Wales, 2018. *Shared Services in Local Government*. Sydney, p.1.

- Why is a shared service arrangement the best model of a particular service delivery than other options (e.g. in-house, outsourced)?
- With whom to share these services?
- What model of shared services to use?

In developing this business case we looked at shared services across NSW and Australasia. We initially undertook a desktop literature review, which indicated that there were potential disbenefits of shared services across local government. In a recent empirical study, by Drew, McQuestin and Dollery (2019), investigating the cost and benefits of shared services, the evidence pointed to a "statistically significant… mean increase to unit expenditure of 8.11 percent"[15] from shared services.

This analysis is supported by the 2018 NSW Audit Office report on 'Shared Services in Local Government' and a similar review by the Victorian Auditor General's Office in 2014.

The NSW Audit Office in its 2018 review of shared services in local government surveyed 67 of the 128 NSW councils (52%), and found that:

- councils do not always analyse their existing services nor build a sound business case before deciding to enter into shared service arrangements
- governance models for sharing services should be fit for purpose, efficient, transparent and accountable
- councils can seek support to build their capability.

The NSW Audit Office report recommended that:

- Councils should base their decision to engage in shared services on a sound needs analysis, a review of service delivery models and a strong business case, which clearly identifies the expected costs and benefits. This should align with the council's delivery program and community strategic plan.
- Councils should collect baseline information, monitor and evaluate services that will be shared. They should also ensure that services perform to expectations.
- Councils should ensure that the governance models they select to deliver shared services are fit for purpose. They should ensure clear roles, responsibilities, accountability and transparency of decisions.
- Councils should build the capability of councillors and council staff in the areas of assessing and managing shared services, leading to better understanding of opportunities and management of risk.
- The NSW Office of Local Government develop guidance which outlines the risks and opportunities of governance models that councils can use to share services. This should include advice on legal requirements, transparency in decisions, and accountability for effective use of public resources.

The Victorian Auditor General's Office[16] made similar findings and recommendations in their 2014 report, albeit with a greater emphasis on the support the Victorian Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure should provide to councils to enable better shared service delivery.

[15] Drew, J., McQuestin, D. and Dollery, B., 2019. 'Good to share? The pecuniary implications of moving to shared service production for local government services'. *Public Administration.* 97(1), pp.132-146.
[16] Victorian Auditor General's Office, 2014. *Shared Services in Local Government*. Melbourne.

Both the Victorian and NSW reviews identified that while most councils had some shared service delivery, a significant weakness was many didn't have clearly set performance expectations or baseline data on the services, making it impossible to determine benefits of the use of shared services.

The NSW Audit Office report identified three main reasons for considering shared services, which were not dissimilar to the stated benefits of amalgamations:

- **economies of scale** - councils combining resources to reduce the cost of a service (e.g. procurement, information technology)
- **economies of scope** - councils combining resources to provide a wider range of services (e.g. libraries, expert professional resource sharing)
- **regional benefits** - shared service enables strategic regional responses, shared knowledge of service delivery practices, and the possibility of working with other levels of government. (e.g. water resource management, natural disaster prevention planning).

Some services lend themselves better to being delivered through shared services. Generally, those that are more transactional can produce economies of scale in shared services models. Others may be more strategic or regionally aligned across LGAs. The NSW Audit Office identified waste management, procurement, human resources (HR) and information technology (IT) as areas where local government have exhibited success in shared service delivery.

A variety of governance models can be employed with a variety of costs associated with their establishment and maintenance.

Table 20 Models used for shared services in NSW[17]

Model	How it works
Committees of council	Under section 355 of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) a function of a council may be delegated to a committee of the council.
Incorporated association	A not-for-profit and non-commercial entity established under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW).
Contracted joint ventures	Complex arrangement for high-cost activity between joint venture partners.
Council-owned companies	Councils form a company limited by guarantee or a proprietary limited company with Minister's consent under section 358 of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW). It must comply with the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth).
County council	A county council (sections 385–400) is a specialist council undertaking functions such as water, sewerage, noxious weed control or floodplain management.
Joint organisation (JO)	The core activities of JOs are regional strategic planning, regional advocacy, and collaboration with state and Australian Government. JOs can engage in shared services as an optional additional function to these core activities.
Informal arrangement	Voluntary arrangement between councils or between councils and other levels of government to develop and/or manage a common initiative or service. Informal arrangements can be supported by memoranda of understanding, service-level agreements, and deed of agreements.

[17] Audit Office of New South Wales, 2018. *Shared Services in Local Government*. Sydney, p.5.

The choice of model can impact the effectiveness of shared service arrangements, for example:

- committees of council require one 'host council' to take on the risks and liabilities for all participating councils, as well as employ staff on behalf of the committee, taking on the industrial relation risks on behalf of participant councils
- incorporated associations have a financial cap on their operations, limiting their potential size and scope
- council-owned companies are private companies and operate as commercial entities. Potential conflict may arise between the commercial direction of a company and councils' consideration of their local community needs.

The following table outlines some of the models' effects on effective shared service delivery.

Table 21 Legislative and governance models available to councils to share services[18]

	Committees of council (S355 of Local Government Act)	Incorporated association	Council-owned company
Operating under the Local Government Act 1993	✓ With limits on delegations (sections 377–381).	✗ Associations Incorporation Act 2009.	✗ Corporations Act 2001 as per Ministerial approval (S358 of Local Government Act).
Transparency Public meetings and transparency of decisions	✓ May be public with public notice and meetings	? Meetings as per Constitution, according to each association	? Meetings as per Constitution, according to each company
Tender Able to accept joint tender on behalf of council members	✗	✗	✗
Liability Representatives subject to OLG inspections (section 430), Ombudsman and ICAC investigations and audits by the Auditor-General of NSW	✓	✗ Offenses can be enforced by NSW Fair Trading taking court proceedings against the association or its committee members.	✗ Failure of directors/officers to comply with some Corporations Act provisions can constitute civil/ criminal offences
Governance Separate legal entity	✗ One council ('host council') assumes the risks to employ staff, sign contracts, accept tenders. Reporting lines can be confusing.	✓	✓
Ceiling on income, assets and expenditures	? Inability to receive funding	✓ $2.0 million	✗

[18] Audit Office of New South Wales, 2018. *Shared Services in Local Government*. Sydney, p. 15. Note: table does not include consideration of joint organisations or county councils as these were out of scope for the NSW Audit Office review.

A particular barrier for councils considering shared services exist around joint tendering, where each council needs to approve tenders and sign contracts individually, increasing administrative costs and timeframes for establishing shared services. Other areas of risk for shared services include transparency, accountability, perceived loss of autonomy, lack of clarity around benefits or costs, resolving issues, managing risks, and timely reporting.

The New England Strategic Alliance of Councils (NESAC) provides an example of how shared services is not an alternative to amalgamation. Established in 2005 as an alternative to the amalgamation of Armidale Dumaresq, Guyra, Uralla and Walcha Councils, NESAC was effectively ended in 2009. While some smaller shared services remained (e.g. companion animal shelter, back-office functions), the key issues for its failure include[19]:

- councils failed to agree on the nature and extent of reform required at the outset of the alliance
- lack of trust, fear of loss of autonomy and loss of control of core services and key staff
- failure to address important governance issues (e.g. legal liability, assets, and termination)
- no agreed timeline or targets to implement and measure shared arrangements
- convoluted decision-making processes
- lack of formal, well-structured service level agreements to provide accountability
- ineffective performance management arrangements
- complex and confusing organisational structure, lack of accountability
- absence of project and operational plans to guide the implementation of business cases.

Taking into account the lack of evidence of quantifiable benefits of shared services, we have decided not to model this option.

This doesn't discount that there may be benefits for the de-amalgamated councils around entering into particular shared services to reduce costs or improve outcomes. These would need to be considered on a service-by-service basis. Business cases should be developed to assess viable options against alternate delivery models as well as weighing quantifiable costs and benefits against the non-financial benefits and disbenefits.

To further illustrate the potential benefits, costs and risks of shared services, we have provided a short case study below, looking at a single shared function - information technology.

4.5.1 Shared services case study – shared information and communication technology

When considering shared services, the IT function has potential to be a success. All three de-amalgamated councils are starting from the same base technology solutions and currently have a single IT function across the de-amalgamated council, under the banner of the current Inner West Council.

It would be feasible to establish a council-owned company, jointly owned by all three de-amalgamated councils, that would deliver IT development and support services to the three de-amalgamated councils. This company could operate in a similar way as many current 'managed service' private providers, but with a cost optimisation rather than a profit motive.

[19] Audit Office of New South Wales, 2018. *Shared Services in Local Government*. Sydney, p19.

This would not escape the need to create three separate instances of the councils' software solutions, to ensure privacy and security of information, nor would it avoid the estimated capital investment of approximately $17 million on IT transition costs, as outlined in section 5.1 below. The shared services solution does have the potential of saving the expected three FTE (one FTE per council) in additional IT personnel, the equivalent of approximately $450,000 per annum.

Additional costs would be incurred in establishing and maintaining appropriate governance for the council-owned company. As the NSW and Victorian Audit Office reviews state, it is critical to invest sufficient time and cost into the establishment of the shared service function, to clearly agree and outline service expectations, revenue models, cost contribution models and conflict management processes. If it is assumed that the board of directors for the council-owned company consists of a mix of councillors and independent experts, similar to an audit and risk committee, meeting bi-monthly, ongoing governance costs would be in the vicinity of $75,000 per annum.

While the IT shared services model doesn't save the transition costs, and there is a cost to establishing the entity. There is a potential ongoing net saving of $375,000 per annum.

The key risk with this model, however, is that each of the three de-amalgamated councils needs to commit to staying aligned in their selection of IT solutions and levels of expected IT support. Ongoing costs to the council-owned company will increase where it needs to support different solutions in different councils, or when one or more councils require a different level of service support. With increasing reliance on technology as the backbone of service provision by councils, the estimated savings can easily be eroded into an overall net cost.

4.6 Strategic analysis

In addition to the quantitative analysis above, we have also re-examined the stated strategic objectives and the identified costs and benefits that underpinned the determination to proceed with the amalgamation in 2015. Further, there now exists empirical evidence on the performance of the merged councils that can be considered.

4.6.1 Strategic drivers for Fit for the Future reform

The broad objectives of NSW local government reform implemented in 2014 was to:

> *"Create strategic and Fit for the Future councils – Councils that are financially sustainable; efficient; with the capacity to effectively manage infrastructure and deliver services; the scale, resources and 'strategic capacity' to govern effectively and partner with the State; and has the capacity to reduce red tape and bureaucracy for business and of a scale and structure that is broadly in line with the NSW Independent Local Government Review Panel (ILGRP)'s recommendations."*[20]

The four 'fit for the future' criteria developed by the ILGRP were:

- financial sustainability
- effective infrastructure and service management
- efficiency
- scale and capacity.

[20] NSW Independent Local Government Review Panel, 2013. *Revitalising Local Government - Final Report*. p.72.

In conducting its 2014 review requested by government, IPART reviewed the above criteria and confirmed that the criteria, with recommended amendments, would contribute to meeting the NSW Government's stated objectives of local government reform.

In its 2015 report 'Assessment of Council Fit for the Future Proposals', IPART provided assessment of whether local councils are fit or not fit for the future based on the proposals submitted, based on the ILGRP initial reform options and the evaluation criteria as amended. Specifically, the IPART review made the following findings on the ILGRP's preferred option, where the Inner West was an amalgamation between Ashfield, Burwood, Canada Bay, Leichhardt, Marrickville and Strathfield:

- Burwood and Canada Bay are fit for the future as part of the Auburn, Burwood and Canada Bay merger proposal
- Ashfield, Leichhardt, Marrickville and Strathfield are not fit for the future as they did not meet the scale and capacity criterion although each council met the financial criteria overall.

So for the latter group, IPART determined that only a merged council, but not the individual councils, has the scale and capacity to deliver the desired financial savings. IPART estimated an Inner West amalgamation could produce NPV benefits of $396 million over 20 years, compared to an estimated NPV of $194 million by Ernst & Young.

A key assumption of the above conclusion is that the merging of councils was the only method available to achieve the desired scale and capacity in carrying out required council functions. As scale and capacity was a central strategic driver in the decision to amalgamate Inner West Council, it is pertinent to assess this proposal in relation to scale and capacity.

4.6.2 Scale

There exists a growing body of empirical analysis that outlines how scale doesn't create better efficiencies or financial sustainability. Central to the argument of scale is the economic concept of economies of scale. This concept asserts that increasing levels of production decreases the marginal cost, that is that the more you produce something the less the average cost of producing each unit. While this holds true, there also comes a threshold point where the reverse is true, referred to as diseconomies of scale. Moreover, the threshold for moving from economies to diseconomies of scale varies on the good, service or function being produced. As local councils produce a wide range of services, increasing scale may create economies for some services and increase diseconomies for others.

Adding to a growing body of research on amalgamations, Drew, McQuestin and Dollery's (2021) analysis of four years of post-amalgamation data on NSW amalgamated councils indicated "significant and persistent increases in unit costs", which in fact made those councils less 'fit for the future'.[21]

It is not possible to draw specific inference for Inner West Council from this analysis, which in some respects is better positioned to absorb amalgamation costs, with a greater population density and homogeneity than many of its rural and regional counterparts. In fact, the financial analysis of Inner West as the base case above seems to indicate that it has absorbed the amalgamation costs, saved approximately $22.4 million per annum, improved services, and developed a financially sustainable LTFP without the need for a special rate variation.

[21] Drew, J., McQuestin, D. and Dollery, B., 2021. 'Did amalgamation make local government more fit for the future? [Article: Early Access]' *Australian Journal of Public Administration.* 16. Retrieved from: *https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-8500.12530*.

4.6.3 Capacity

The other half of the strategic driver for amalgamations was capacity. A definition of this was provided in the Independent Panel for Local Government Revitalisation report in 2013.[22] Key elements of strategic capacity include:

- more robust revenue base and increased discretionary spending
- scope to undertake new functions and major projects
- ability to employ wider range of skilled staff
- knowledge, creativity and innovation
- advanced skills in strategic planning and policy development
- effective regional collaboration
- credibility for more effective advocacy
- capable partner for state and federal agencies
- resources to cope with complex and unexpected change
- high quality political and managerial leadership.

These criteria are somewhat subjective in their nature. However, there is some evidence to indicate that Inner West Council has a more robust revenue base or increased discretionary spending as a result of the amalgamation. Some revenue uplift has been achieved through the development of new functions and major projects, such as the Ashfield swimming pool expansion and new childcare centres at Leichhardt and Marrickville.

COVID-19 has demonstrated councils' abilities, both amalgamated and not, to cope with complex and unexpected change. But it has also tightened the labour market, making it difficult to assert any ability to employ a wider range of skilled staff.

On the aspects of improved strategic planning, regional collaboration and partnering with state and federal agencies, there is also some evidence that this has improved from pre-merger times. There has been an alignment of strategies across the Inner West as well as the development of a transport plan and the recruitment of a new senior development officer.

Knowledge, creativity and innovation is a somewhat subjective criterion. As is credibility for more effective advocacy, although some of the analysis on community representation below would indicate that this is not the case if advocacy is related to representation.

[22] NSW Independent Local Government Review Panel, 2013. *Revitalising Local Government - Final Report*. p.32.

4.6.4 Financial benefit and cost

Several assumptions on financial savings were prepared by KPMG in early 2016 which were subsequently used in various studies assessing the benefits and costs associated with proposed council mergers. The assumptions and estimates in the KPMG report have been criticized in both the academic literature[23] and in the public arena.

We have not undertaken analysis on whether the estimated benefits were achieved. Despite this, the approach undertaken in the quantitative assessment and the NPV results do indicate that some financial benefit for amalgamation has been achieved. However, this doesn't include the qualitative assessment of benefits of de-amalgamation which focuses on those benefits perceived by the community that cannot be quantified.

4.7 Qualitative community benefits

There are unquantifiable potential costs and benefits that could accrue from a de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council, although they will depend on the de-amalgamation legislation, guidelines and process adopted. These need to be considered in conjunction with the quantitative cost benefit analysis above.

Potential benefits sited from de-amalgamations include:

- better servicing of local communities of interest
- improved access by residents to elected representation
- expectation of improved service levels or return to pre-merger services
- an uplift in community satisfaction
- improved community strategic planning that comes from the ability to work more closely with established community groups to develop a better understanding of community challenges.

This section investigates further some of the sited qualitative benefits of de-amalgamation and provides some analysis of how they relate to the case of the Inner West Council de-amalgamation. Among other things, this section includes consideration of the following factors that they LGBC are required to consider under S263(3) of the Local Government Act:

b. the community of interest and geographic cohesion in the existing areas and in any proposed new area

c. the existing historical and traditional values in the existing areas and the impact of change on them

e. the requirements of the area concerned in relation to elected representation for residents and ratepayers at the local level, the desirable and appropriate relationship between elected representatives and ratepayers and residents and such other matters as it considers relevant in relation to the past and future patterns of elected representation for that area

f. such other factors as it considers relevant to the provision of efficient and effective local government in the existing and proposed new areas.

[23] Dollery, 2018. 'Policy-based evidence making in local government: the New South Wales municipal merger program, 2011 to 2017'. *Economics Papers. 37(4).*

4.7.1 Communities of interest

In the Micromex telephone survey, 33% of the respondents who supported de-amalgamation stated that one of the reasons was that the three areas are very diverse and have different local priorities. Only 12% of the online survey responded supportive of de-amalgamation and stated that this was a reason.

Several open comments from survey respondents mentioned their suburb or former LGA's unique history, community or needs. Comments included:

- *"Balmain Leichardt and Rozelle have a unique story in Australian history and different needs than other suburbs such as Marrickville and Ashfield"*
- *"The larger council … has ruined the special nature of Marrickville LGA."*
- *"I preferred the way Council managed the Ashfield Council Area. The amalgamation seemed to ignore the local issues"*

Morrison Low undertook a desktop review[24] of the communities of Marrickville, Ashfield and Leichhardt Council areas in 2015 to advise the then Marrickville Council on community similarities and differences for a potential amalgamation 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[25], 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.[26]

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.

There are a number of similarities and differences between the two areas noted in 2015, including:

- The forecast population growth rate for Ashfield and Leichhardt 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 Leichhardt 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.

[24] Morrison Low, 2015. *Communities of Interest: Marrickville, Leichhardt and Ashfield*, Sydney.
[25] NSW Government, Department of Planning Industry and Environment, 2019. Projects. Retrieved from http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/en-au/deliveringhomes/populationandhouseholdprojections/data.aspx.
[26] 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.

- 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.
- Leichhardt 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.

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.

The people of the Inner West have similar socio-economic metrics for disadvantage. The data is no longer available for each of the former council areas; however, the table below provides the suburb relative disadvantage rankings for the Inner West and show the consistency across the three de-amalgamated council areas.

Table 22 Inner West suburbs index of relative socio-economic disadvantage

Suburb	Score	Ranking within Australia	Ranking within NSW
Marrickville	1007	1068	303
Petersham - Stanmore	1070	1802	452
Sydenham - Tempe - St Peters	1038	1408	384
Balmain	1099	2038	509
Leichhardt - Annandale	1083	1910	477
Lilyfield - Rozelle	1092	1994	493
Ashfield	1006	1058	300

4.7.2 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 amalgamation.

The current elected representation per resident for Inner West Council is a little over 14,000 people per elected member. Under a de-amalgamated model this number would be between approximately 4,000 and 8,500 depending on the council and final number of elected members.

The following is the population representation per councillor based on the 2021 estimated population.

Table 23 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

In the Micromex telephone survey, 10% of those that supported de-amalgamation stated that one of their reasons was that the amalgamation has removed governance and/or decision making from the community, a more localised response is needed. In the online survey, 33% of those that supported de-amalgamation gave this as their reason. Some of the comments in the open-ended questions included:

- *"Amalgamation has increased rates reduced council accountability"*
- *"councillors not being able to deal with local problems"*
- *"I feel that council is far too large to be representative of community interests"*
- *"Smaller councils provided "better access to councils, a stronger voice"*
- *"the council is far too large for residents to participate".*

4.7.3 Expectation of improved or returned services

Of those that supported the de-amalgamation in the Micromex telephone survey, 27% stated the amalgamated Council has not provided any improvement in service delivery and/or that facilities and/or services have declined. Additionally, 12% also stated that the smaller/individual council areas were easier to manage/provided better services/facilities. In the online survey, responses were 37% and 21% respectively.

While many commented in general terms on service decline since amalgamation or stated that all services have declined, some pointed to specific service reductions, including:

- Waste management and garbage collection, particularly the removal of Council Cleanup, the difficulty in booking household rubbish collection, the reduction in bins and collection of waste in public spaces.
- Street cleaning and general maintenance
- The speed of graffiti removal
- Park and open space facilities and maintenance.

It should also be noted that 28% of telephone survey respondents and 22% of online survey respondents that did not support de-amalgamation because the amalgamated Council has better managed and/or provided improved services in the area.

4.7.4 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.[27] This survey has been undertaken since the establishment of the Inner West Council in 2016.

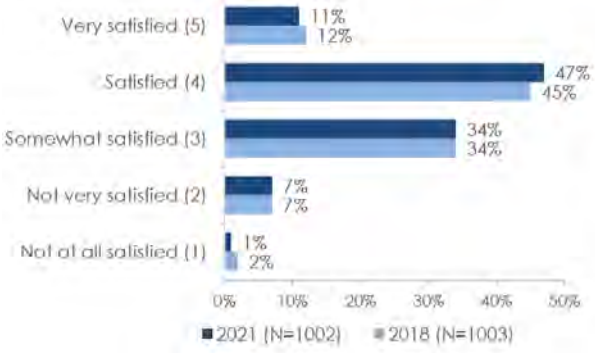
General satisfaction with Inner West Council has improved since the formation of the Council and is shown below. The number of residents who are at least somewhat satisfied has remained consistent over the last three years at a level that is above the Micromex LGA benchmark for the metropolitan region. 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 17 2021 Community satisfaction survey results

Q4a. 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.
- 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.

[27] Micromex Research, 2021, *Inner West Council Community Research*.

- 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.

In 2017, Inner West Council undertook its first community satisfaction survey and compared these results to the 2016 results for the former councils. While exact comparison was not possible, comparison of the mean results showed that:

- There was no significant difference between Inner West and Leichhardt's overall satisfaction scores, which are comparable with the Micromex Sydney metro council benchmark.
- Marrickville Council's overall satisfaction was significantly higher than the Micromex Sydney metro council benchmark.
- Ashfield Council's mean was slightly lower than the Sydney metro benchmark (with the caveat that the question was not directly comparable).

As part of the community engagement survey undertaken on this business case, questions on community satisfaction with Council were also asked.

The responses from the telephone survey show that overall satisfaction has declined from 92% in 2021 to 87% in 2022. Additionally, the reduction in satisfaction is predominantly from those supportive of de-amalgamation.

Figure 18 2021 Community satisfaction survey results

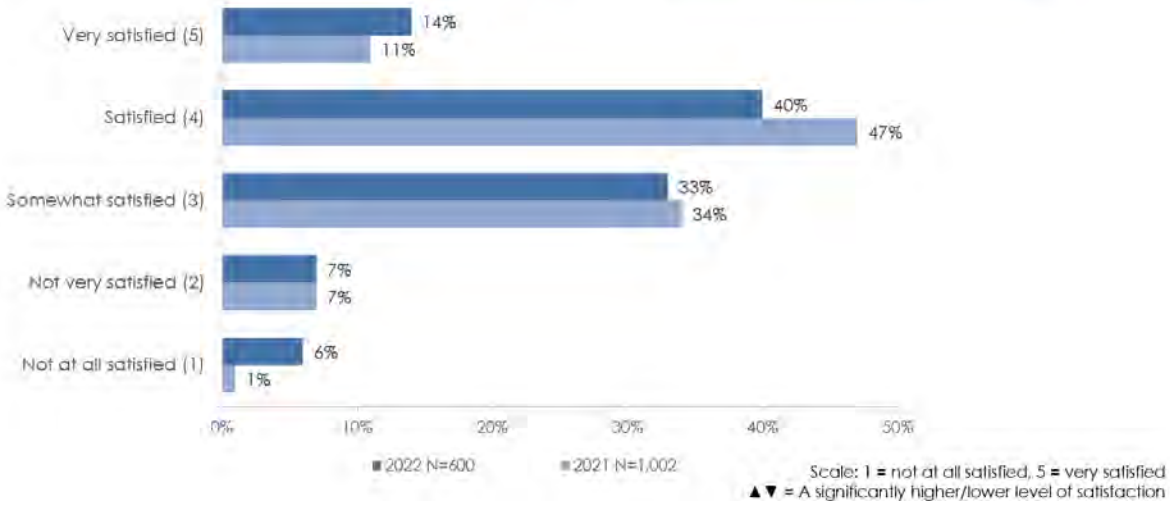
Q3. Overall, for the last 12 months, how satisfied are you with the performance of Council, not just on one or two issues but across all responsibility areas?

Of Inner West residents are at least somewhat satisfied with the **performance of Council** over the last 12 months

	Overall	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	CALD Background (Yes)	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Mean rating	3.49	3.71▲	3.39	3.30▼	3.47	3.47	3.35	3.80▲
Top 3 Box	87%	94%▲	84%	80%▼	85%	85%	83%	97%▲
Base	600	196	175	128	101	176	420	179

	Previous LGA			Time lived in the LGA		
	Marrickville Council	Leichhardt Council	Ashfield Council	<5 years	6 – 10 years	10+ years
Mean rating	3.56	3.39	3.45	3.83▲	3.70▲	3.37
Top 3 Box	88%	84%	88%	97%▲	91%	84%
Base	273	182	145	68	117	415

	Overall	Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Remain as Inner West Council	Inner West Council Community Research 2021	Micromex LGA Benchmark - Metro
Mean rating	3.49	3.25	3.70▲	3.58	3.59
T3 Box	87%	81%	92%▲	92%	90%
Base	600	281	315	1,002	45,633



4.7.5 Other consideration

We also reviewed the strategic plans and environmental management plans of the proposed de-amalgamated councils and the current Inner West Council. The detailed comparative analysis of council strategic plans and environmental management is provided in Appendix E.

5 Financial and commercial analysis

This section analyses the direct financial impacts of a de-amalgamation and estimates the one-off transition costs. It is assumed that the one-off de-amalgamation costs will be funded by the NSW Government in accordance with section 218CC, clause 6 of the Local Government Act.

5.1 Transition costs

We have estimated the one-off costs of transition for a de-amalgamation of Inner West Council to be approximately $31.2 million over two years. Detailed assumptions of what is included in this estimate are provided in Appendix C.

Following is a summary of the expenditure for the one-off de-amalgamation costs.

Table 24 Transition one-off costs summary

($'000s)	One-off cost and benefits summary			
Expenses	**Ashfield**	**Leichhardt**	**Marrickville**	**Total**
Redundancy costs	1,316	3,174	3,920	8,410
Technology costs	3,535	6,004	7,684	17,223
All other costs	1,528	1,826	2,230	5,584
Total costs	**6,379**	**11,004**	**13,834**	**31,217**

The key components of these transition costs include:

- redundancies and recruitment costs
- establishment of a de-amalgamation transition committee
- IT costs to ensure sufficient hardware and software for each council
- costs associated with administration and operational property for each council.

While no forced redundancies are assumed, a level of voluntary redundancies is expected commensurate with past de-amalgamations and with the merger of Inner West Council. A redundancy rate of 9.8% has been assumed (or 98 FTE), which based on equal proportions of manager and other staff equates to $8.4 million. As discussed in section 6.2.1 on staff risk, this may be considered conservative given the current staff sentiment in relation to a de-amalgamation.

Technology transition costs represent, by far, the bulk of the one-off transition costs. The cost estimate here assumes that the current technology environment for Inner West Council is replicated across each of the three proposed de-amalgamated councils. If these councils choose to adopt different technology platforms the costs would be higher, however the current environment of Inner West Council is akin to other comparable councils across NSW and, with its Software as a Service (Saas or cloud) backbone, it is considered up to date.

However, the capital costs for hardware as well as the one-off implementation costs are not insignificant. For the following estimates we consulted with both the IT staff within Inner West Council, for their deep understanding of the current infrastructure at the council, and several industry experts, consultants, system providers and other council IT professionals. We also compared estimates against that of amalgamation and de-amalgamation experience. The table below outlines the one-off costs of technology for de-amalgamation.

Table 25 One-off transition costs – Information and communication technology

($000)	Ashfield	Leichhardt	Marrickville	Total
Capital – networks, switches, wireless controllers, data management etc. Noting there is a $4.7 million legacy from Inner West Council IT capital that can be used by the new councils.	2,249	3,474	4,500	10,223
Services for implementation for systems – data migration, security and infrastructure design, and implementation.	660	1,020	1,320	3,000
Services for implementation for other systems – data migration, security and infrastructure design, and implementation.	626	1,510	1,864	4,000
Total	**3,535**	**6,004**	**7,684**	**17,223**

Discussion of relevant technology risks are outlined in section 6.2.2.

Other transition costs totalling $5.6 million were estimated as follows:

- $1.2 million on recruitment, as reconstituting the former council would increase total staff levels by 115 positions, it has been assumed recruitment costs are 15% of salary cost for these positions.
- $1.8 million for the establishment of a transition committee, including program and functional support to execute de-amalgamation.
- $2.6 million to re-establish or replicate council elections and other governance mechanisms, facilities, and salary systems.

5.1.1 How does this compare to other de-amalgamations?

A research paper titled 'De-amalgamation in action: The Queensland Experience' published in 2014[28] estimated the cost of de-amalgamation per ratepayer. The report indicates the cost of de-amalgamation 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 a range in today s dollars of $23.8 million to $39.2 million and an annual cost ranging from $13.0 million to $17.5 million per year.

The Stimpson & Co report[29] 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.

[28] Queensland Audit Office, 2015. *Results of audit: Local government entities 2013–14, Report 16: 2014–15*, Brisbane.
[29] Stimpson & Co, 2014. *Report to Local Government Commission on Wellington Reorganisation Transition Costs*, p.3.

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, IT 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. These secondments and support costs were at the expense 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 amalgamation 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 secondments and support, from existing councils to the transition body, is not included in the cost estimate.

The Inner West transition cost estimate is largely within the ranges of the de-amalgamation costs associated with the Queensland de-amalgamations and Wellington reorganisation, noting additional costs for new and expended compliance requirements of councils, and is therefore reasonable to be used for comparative impact analysis of the de-amalgamation proposal for Inner West Council.

5.2 Evaluation of selected de-amalgamation options

This section provides a high-level cost and benefit analysis of two options for demerging the Inner West Council into the former councils of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville. There are two Inner West Council de-amalgamation options considered in this evaluation:

- option A - pre-merger service levels - service levels of the councils prior to the amalgamation, where feasible
- option B - current Inner West Council service levels.

Financial projections for the base case for the period 2022-2032 were derived from Inner West Council's Long Term Financial Plan.[30]

Morrison Low has prepared higher forecasts of income and revenues for the de-amalgamation options compared to the base case as shown below. This is mainly due to:

- Higher revenue from several sources, including waste management charges which reduced by 4.5 per cent following the establishment of the Inner West Council.
- The operating grants and financial assistance grants currently received by the Inner West Council (i.e. at around $6 million in 2022/23, though this increases to $7.5 million in later years) are substantially less than the levels received by the three individual councils pre-merger (at around $15 million annually).

[30] Projections provided by Inner West Council - LTFP FY23 Scenario-1 V20220331 V4.

As in previous assessments, the evaluation needs to assess the differences in the costs of operation between the de-amalgamation options and the base case:

a. Changes in expenditure associated with continuing operations, of which the following two categories are most impacted by the de-amalgamation:
   - employee benefits and oncosts
   - materials and contracts and other expenses.

b. One-off de-amalgamation costs – a total cost of $31.2 million was estimated to be incurred in the first two years of the de-amalgamation. It is noted that while this cost was included in the economic evaluation, the NSW Government will likely provide financial assistance of equivalent value to councils to meet de-amalgamation costs under the Local Government Amendment Act 2021.

As shown below, while both options show a net present cost, the lower cost option is Option A. This was also the preferred option identified in the 2022 community telephone survey, with 47% of telephone respondents preferring Option A.

5.2.1 NPV over the ten-year period

The net present value of revenues and costs over the next ten-year period were compared for the base case and options A and B in the table below.

Table 26 NPV across options over ten-year period* ($'000s)

Accounts ($'000s)	Net present value	
	Option A	Option B
NPV of demerging Inner West Council	**-150,811**	**-162,860**
One-off transition cost	-27,257	-27,257
NPV of demerging Inner West Council (including transition costs)	**-178,068**	**-190,118**

*NPV was calculated using a real discount rate of seven percent per annum.

The evaluation over the ten-year period showed that:

- Excluding the one-off costs, the net cost of de-merging Inner West Council is $150.8 million under option A and $162.9 million under option B.
- When the one-off transition cost of $27.2 million (NPV) was included, the net cost of demerging Inner West Council was $178.1 million and $190.1 million for options A and B respectively.
- It is noted that the disbenefit or benefit associated with changes in service levels assumed in option A has not been evaluated.

5.2.2 NPV over the 20-year period

The NPV of revenue and cost over the next 20-year period were compared for the base case and options A and B in the table below.

Table 27 NPV across options over 20-year period* ($'000)

Accounts ($'000s)	Net present value	
	Option A	Option B
NPV of demerging Inner West Council	**-200,675**	**-232,819**
One-off transition cost	-27,257	-27,257
NPV of demerging Inner West Council (including transition costs)	**-227,932**	**-260,076**

*NPV was calculated using a real discount rate of seven percent per annum

The evaluation over the 20-year period showed that:

- Excluding the one-off costs, the net cost of de-merging Inner West Council is $200.7 million under option A and $232.8 million under option B.
- When the one-off transition cost of $27.2 million (NPV) was included, the net cost of demerging Inner West Council was $227.9 million and $260.1 million for options A and B respectively.
- It is noted that the disbenefit or benefit associated with changes in service levels assumed in option A has not been evaluated.

5.2.3 Capacity to pay

The analysis indicates that there is a financial cost to de-amalgamation, which will in part be borne by the community.

Inner West Council was required to harmonise the three former councils' rating structures that it had in place, by 30 June 2021. Council resolved to gradually transition towards harmonised rates over an eight-year period, commencing from 1 July 2021. This means that the pre-amalgamation rating structure will mostly continue for the next seven years.

As part of informing this process, Morrison Low undertook community analysis[31] to feed into 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 provided 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 below.

[31] Morrison Low, 2020. *Revised Capacity to Pay Report - Inner West Council*, Sydney.

Table 28 Ward characteristics

Ward	Characteristics
Areas of advantage	
Balmain	• Characterised by established families and empty nesters • Very high levels of household income • High property values and high levels of home ownership • Very low levels of disadvantage
Stanmore	• Characterised by a significant large young workforce • Very high levels of household income • High proportion of renters
Leichhardt	• Characterised by established families • High levels of household income • High levels of home ownership
Areas of disadvantage	
Ashfield	• Average levels of household income • High proportion of renters • High levels of vulnerable individuals (unemployment, housing stress, etc)
Marrickville	• Characterised by a significant large young workforce • Average levels of household income • High levels of home ownership • High levels of vulnerable individuals (unemployment, housing stress, etc)

6 Management analysis

6.1 Establishment and transition

For the orderly creation and transition to 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 can make the necessary decisions for the new councils to be fully operational on day one. It is noted for the Inner West amalgamation, an administrator was in place for some 16 months.

Broadly the responsibilities would include recruiting the new general managers, IT systems scope and procurement and, in conjunction with the new general managers, 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.

In the transition to the de-amalgamated entities there are a number of tasks that need to be undertaken to ensure that the new entities are 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.

Table 29 Transition considerations

Governance	• Developing democratic structures (council committees) • Establishing the systems and processes to service and support the democratic structures • Developing the governance procedures and corporate policy and procedures underlying elected member and staff delegations • Developing the organisational structures of the new organisations
Workforce	• Developing the workforce-related change management process including new employment contracts, location and salary systems • Establishing the human resource capacity for the new entities and ensuring all policies, processes and systems are in place for day one • Ensuring that positions required are filled
Finance and treasury	• Ensuring that the new entities are able to generate the revenue it needs to operate • Ensuring that the new entities are able to satisfy any borrowing requirements • Ensuring the new entities are able to procure goods and services • Developing a methodology for interim rates billing • Developing a plan for continued statutory and management reporting requirements • Developing a financial framework that complies with legislative requirements

Business process	• Planning and managing business processes and systems for day one, including customer call centres, financial systems, telephony systems, office infrastructure and software, payroll, consent processing etc • Developing an initial IT strategy to support the day one operating environments that includes the identification of those processes and systems that require change • Developing a longer-term IT strategy that provides a roadmap for the future business processes and systems beyond day one
Communications	• Ensuring that appropriate communication strategies and processes are in place for the new entities • 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
Legal	• Ensuring any legal risks are identified and managed for the new entities • Ensuring that existing assets, contracts etc are transferred to the new entities • Ensuring all litigation, claims and liabilities relevant to the new entities are identified and managed
Property and assets	• Ensuring that all property, assets and facilities are retained by the new entities and are appropriately managed and maintained • Ensuring the ongoing delivery of property related and asset maintenance services are not adversely impacted on by the reorganisation • Facilitating the relocation of staff accommodation requirements as required for day one
Planning services	• Ensuring the new entities are able to meet their statutory planning obligations from day one and beyond • Ensuring that the entities are able to operate efficiently, and staff and customers understand the planning environment from day one • Developing a plan to address the statutory planning requirements beyond day one
Regulatory services	• Ensuring that day one regulatory requirements and processes including consenting, licensing and enforcement activities under statute are in place • Ensuring that business as usual is able to continue with minimum impact to customers from day one and beyond
Customer services	• Ensuring no reduction of the customer interaction element – either face to face, by phone, e-mail or in writing from day one and beyond • Ensuring no customer service system failures on day one and beyond • Ensuring that staff and customers are well informed for day one and beyond
Community services	• Ensuring that the new entities continue to provide community services and facilities • Ensuring that current community service grant and funding recipients have certainty of funding during the short term

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.

6.2 Risk assessment

There are a number of significant potential financial and non-financial risks arising from this 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 the NSW Government.
- The efficiencies generated by Inner West Council and projected in this analysis may not be able to be delivered by the new councils meaning costs increase more than is modelled.
- 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 amalgamation, 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.

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.

One Queensland chief executive that we spoke to, identified the opportunity to reset by shedding some assets and processes to create a new organisation from scratch as a benefit. For example, moving IT into the cloud rather than setting up new infrastructure.

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.

6.2.1 Staff risk

This section covers the following factors for LGBC consideration under S263(3) of the Local Government Act:

(e2) the impact of any relevant proposal on the employment of the staff by the councils of the areas concerned.

In June 2021, Inner West Council partnered with Insync, an independent specialist employee survey provider to carry out a Performance and Engagement Survey. The survey is based on Insync's academically and statistically validated performance and engagement framework.

A total of 1,336 employees were invited to undertake the survey and 782 completed responses were received, which translates to a response rate of 59%.

The survey was made available to employees through email as well as via an open link. Every effort was taken to make the survey available to all cohorts of employees.

Inner West Council wished to better understand employee sentiment regarding council amalgamation and to check if employees supported the current set up. The following questions and answer options were presented to employees as a part of the survey.

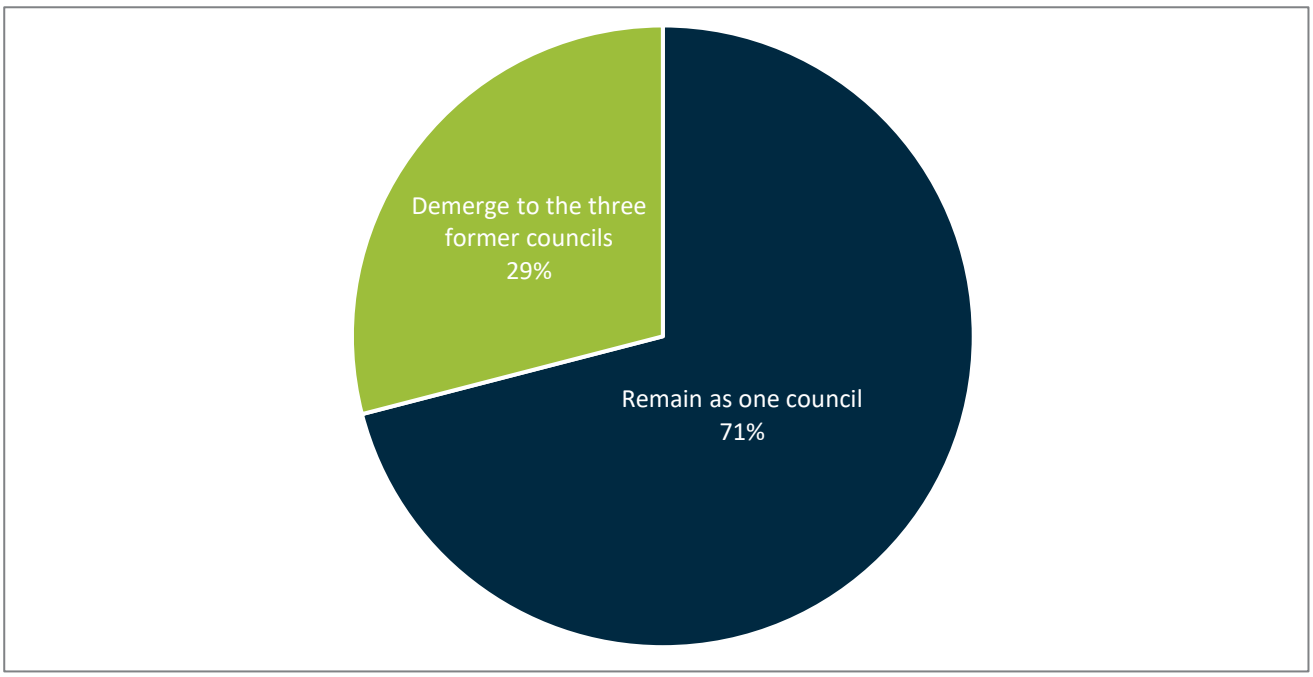
Question: Which of the following do you support?

Answer options:

1. Inner West Council should remain as one council.
2. Inner West Council should demerge to the three former councils.

The following figure shows that seven out of ten respondents would like the Council to remain as a single entity.

Figure 19 2021 staff survey results on the question of de-amalgamation [32]



Further to this, Council's Joint Consultative Committee representing staff, resolved that:

> *"The Inner West Council Consultative Committee notes with concern the motion discussed at the extraordinary meeting on Monday 24/5/2021 for Council to investigate the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council.*
>
> *The Inner West Consultative Committee has worked hard through the last 5 years since amalgamation to constructively deal with huge changes brought about by the amalgamation of the former council areas, systems and staff.*
>
> *Staff are suffering from change fatigue associated with the many changes over the last 5 years associated with the amalgamation including changes to the leadership team and introduction of new systems and processes and have worked closely to create the significant cultural change and cohesiveness required to ensure that the community is serviced. Any proposed changes or consultation in relation to any de-amalgamation or consultation should also include the views of staff through either formal or informal consultation or through the staff survey.*
>
> *The Consultative Committee forms a sub-committee to deal with the issues arising from the resolution for the report and the plebiscite to be undertaken on the election day.*
>
> *That the consultative committee write to the unions to express the concerns of the consultative committee and staff. Support be offered to all staff and clear communication to staff."*

A de-amalgamation comes with significant risks of loss of key personnel and overall increase in staff turnover. In addition to this, its central metropolitan location makes it more exposed to staff mobility, as there is a plethora of other employment opportunities nearby in local government, other tiers of government and the private sector.

[32] Insync, 2021. *Inner West Council performance and engagement survey 2021 – Employee sentiment regarding council amalgamation*. Sydney.

These risks can be managed but not fully mitigated, through providing staff with clarity early on of the impact to them and the path for transitioning to their roles in the de-amalgamated entities.

6.2.2 Other risks

The 2020 *Report on Local Government*[33] highlighted a number of high-risk IT issues, including cyber security, controls and gaps in user access management processes and system capacity for remote working. The main risks for demerging IT systems are:

- extended transition period of two to three years
- unpacking and allocating data, information, processes and systems
- IT specifications, procurement and implementation
- allocation of current IT staff and recruitment of new IT staff.

A strong de-amalgamation program and project management capability can assist in managing, but not mitigating, these risks.

There is very little impact on procurement or current contracts. The assumptions made in this business case are that contracts pertaining to individual former LGAs will be transitioned to the relevant proposed council.

Contracts and procurement of Inner West-wide goods and services will need to be apportioned to each of the proposed council areas.

It is also assumed that the current IT systems will be utilised by the three proposed councils, with separate instances of the software and applications being created for each council. This will require negotiation with current software providers.

[33] Audit Office of NSW, *Report on Local Government*.

Appendix A General assumptions

The following assumptions have been made in preparing this report about the process and framework around which a de-amalgamation will occur. These assumptions provide a further explanatory base for section 2.3:

- 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 methodologies or rules for de-amalgamation in NSW and it is acknowledged that different methodologies can be used.
- New systems and processes will be developed, and these must be operational on day one.
- Methodology is to re-establish three former councils as if the amalgamation had not occurred, using a predictive model to replicate the former councils' long term financial plans and validate.
- Nominal de-amalgamation date is 1 July 2023.
- A combination of public information, namely financial statements, Long Term Financial Plan, Annual Reports and Council reports have been utilised. Council provided information has been tested and validated through individual staff interviews with some comparative assessment.
- Established ongoing benefits, costs and service changes of Inner West amalgamation.
- 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 un-merged councils to 2019/20.
- Developed a range of distribution approaches appropriate to each type of revenue and expense change.
- Established one off de-amalgamation costs and benefits, which are not distributed to each council. As under S218CC(6), these will be funded by the NSW State Government.
- 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 are 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 and cloud bases 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 Ongoing revenue and cost assumptions

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. This appendix provides more detail on the analysis provided in section 4.3 to 5.2 on the cost benefit analysis.

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 30 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%*
SRV, inclusive of rate peg:										
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 was the expiry of Marrickville Council's special rate variation.

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 Leichhardt, the change is as a result of the new Leichhardt 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 amalgamation and vary depending to the option. These include new, closed and changed services and rationalisation due to efficiency gains in processes and vacant positions.

In addition to the services detailed in the user fees and charges section immediately above, for option B, 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.

After a review of back-office costs, an additional three FTE (one each in project management, IT and HR) were allocated to each council. This was based on discussions with Burwood, Canada Bay and Strathfield who have added two FTE each (six total) over the last five years as a result of increased requirements in each of these areas.

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 amalgamation, 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 amalgamation. These include:

- Emergency Services Levy
- new IT operational requirements such as, disaster recovery, WIFI and cyber security
- modernised IT solutions including enhancements to IT 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.

Appendix C One-off transition costs

This section provides some further detail on the assumption used to develop the one-off transition costs of de-amalgamating the Inner West Council, building on the information provided in section 5.1.

Employee costs

While similar protections are expected to be in place for the de-amalgamation, as with the amalgamation, and no forced redundancies are assumed, there is expected to be a level of voluntary redundancies occur with the de-amalgamation 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[34] that included an estimate of 138 redundancies resulting from four amalgamations. 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[35] 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 amalgamation 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 $8.41 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 $1.18 million for the three councils.

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[34] Queensland Audit Office, *Results of audit*.

[35] Queensland Government, *Open Data Portal*. Retrieved from https://www.data.qld.gov.au/dataset/c7c0c31e-a844-480d-bfbe-4b689179a5cf/resource/9e81cb82-d71e-4c2d-ad2b-54a053cfeadf/download/qld-local-government-comparative-information-report-cdc-personnel.csv.

De-amalgamation program costs

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.

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.[36]

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 $1.80 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.

Information technology

The former technology environments were significantly different in terms of technology, operations and costs structures. These environments were all on premises operations, no cloud-based services, with perpetual software licences, with little or no network redundancy, limited cyber security messages and significantly smaller telecommunications and internet capacity. Whereas the current IT environment is all cloud based with software as a service (or SaaS) - delivering applications over the internet as a service, with application and network redundancies and cyber security built into the SaaS, requiring far greater internet capacity to operate. As a result of the environmental change the costing structure has changed with the cloud-based application costs built into the ongoing operating expenditure.

There will be a requirement to establish three information technology and communication systems for the de-amalgamated councils. We have assumed a cloud-based solution, using the same suite of products including Technology One SaaS as the enterprise software solution. This approach would make it somewhat less complex in identifying, extracting and implementing the applications, relevant data and business processes with the current system knowledge of staff.

There will be a need to run four solutions/systems simultaneously during the development and transition to the new solutions. We have assumed a two-year implementation period with a staff secondment and no backfill model based in the Inner West amalgamation approach. Further we have assumed that the legacy Inner West system will be transferred to largest former council as part of the one-off de-amalgamation costs, noting this will have no financial impact on other councils as all the one-off costs will be funded by NSW Government.

[36] Stimpson & Co, *Report to Local Government*.

We have used and assessed a combination of information from the Inner West Council amalgamation, advice from an industry provider who works for over 100 councils across Australia, including with the Technology One solution, information from councils with a recent implementation, along with indicative pricing for Technology One licencing and implementation. The estimated one-off establishment indicative cost structure for each of the three entities are as follows.

Table 31 One-off establishment indicative costs

Establishment cost item	Ashfield $'000s	Leichhardt $'000s	Marrickville $'000s	Total $'000s
Capital – networks, switches, wireless controllers, data management etc. Noting there is a $4.7 million legacy from Inner West Council IT capital that can be used by the new councils.	3,408	5,111	1,704	10,223
IT infrastructure – equipment leases for printers, laptops, communication devices, etc. Assumed part of former councils cost structures.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Services for implementation for core systems – data migration, security and infrastructure design, and implementation.	660	1,020	1,320	3,000
Services for implementation for other systems – data migration, security and infrastructure design, and implementation.	626	1,520	1,864	4,000
Total	**4,708**	**7,651**	**4,904**	**17,223**

Election costs

Council election costs for three councils is based on an IPART report[37] 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 $828,000 allocated based an estimated number of voters of 166,900.

Operational establishment costs

Other establishment requirements identified include rebranding, audio visual equipment and other installation, print rooms, reestablishment of depots, salary systems, council policies, integrated planning and reporting documents, internal ombudsman services and community engagement. The indicative costs are estimated at $1.8 million.

[37] Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal, 2019. *Review of local government election costs*.

Appendix D Financial performance ratio definitions

This appendix provides the definitions of financial ratios used in sections 4.3.3 and 4.4.3.

Operating performance ratio

This ratio measures the extent to which a council has succeeded in containing operating expenditure within operating revenue. It is important to emphasise that this ratio is focusing on operating performance, and hence capital grants and contributions, fair value adjustments and reversal of revaluation decrements are excluded.

Formula:

$$\frac{\text{Net operating result before captial grants and contributions}}{(\text{Total continuing operating revenue}) - (\text{capital grants and contributions})}$$

Benchmark:

greater than 0%

Own source revenue ratio

This ratio measures fiscal flexibility. It is the degree of reliance on external funding sources such as operating grants and contributions. A council's financial flexibility improves as its own source revenue increases.

Formula:

$$\frac{(\text{Total continuing operating revenue}) - (\text{all grants and contributions})}{(\text{Total continuing operating revenue})}$$

Benchmark:

greater than 60%

Infrastructure renewal ratio

The purpose of this ratio is to assess the rate at which these assets are being renewed against the rate at which they are depreciating.

Formula:

$$\frac{(\text{Total asset renewals})}{(\text{depreciation, amortisation and impairment})}$$

Benchmark:

greater than 100%

Asset maintenance ratio

This ratio compares actual versus required annual asset maintenance.

Formula:

$$\frac{(\text{Actual asset maintenance})}{(\text{required asset maintenance })}$$

Benchmark:

greater than 100%

Appendix E Strategic plans and environmental management comparisons

This appendix provides the detail on the review of strategic plans and environmental management of the pre-merged and current councils.

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 32 Analysis of individual community priorities pre-merger

Council	Vision	Broader themes
Inner West	Our Inner West 2036 sets the community vision for the merged Council area as: 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.	*An ecologically sustainable Inner West:* 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. *Unique, liveable, networked neighbourhoods*: 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. *Creative communities and a strong economy*: 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, artist run 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.

Council	Vision	Broader themes
		Caring, happy, healthy communities: 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. Progressive local leadership: 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.
Leichhardt	Leichhardt Council had set the following vision for 2025: Our Local Community – making it the place where we want to live, work, play and visit. Democratic Responsible Government – open, participative and proactive Council leading the community. 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.	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. 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. A liveable place – socially, environmentally and economically; a sustainable environment created by inspiring, leading and guiding our social, environmental and economic activities. Thriving businesses and a vibrant community working together to improve the local economy. Sustainable services and assets and accountable civic leadership that delivers services and assets to support the community now and in the future.

Council	Vision	Broader themes
Marrickville	Marrickville Council's vision for 2023 was for: A culturally diverse, forward-thinking, inner-city communities and neighbourhoods. A community that remains welcoming, proud of its diversity and its history. A place where businesses are confident and responsive to the needs of the local community. Is a creative community. A place that values the people who celebrate, challenge and inspire local identity and sense of place. The environment is healthy and native plants and animals are thriving. Local communities work closely with Council, which is ethical, effective and accountable.	A diverse community that is socially just, educated, safe and healthy. A creative and cultural Marrickville. A vibrant economy and well planned, sustainable urban environment and infrastructure. Effective, consultative and representative council.
Ashfield	Ashfield's vision for 2023 was for: A caring community of linked villages inspired by its rich cultural history, heritage and diversity.	Creative and inclusive community. Unique and distinctive neighbourhoods. Living sustainably. Thriving local economy. Attractive and lively town centre. Engaging and innovative local democracy.

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 amalgamation or potential de-amalgamation.

Figure 20 Inner West Council strategic visions and themes

Figure 21 Ashfield Council strategic visions and themes

Figure 22 Leichhardt Council strategic visions and themes

Figure 23 Marrickville Council strategic visions and themes

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 33 Environmental comparative analysis

Council	Natural	Built	Approach to growth
Inner West	Relative emphasis on natural environment – medium-high. The particular aims of the LEP which relate to the protection of the natural environment are: • to mitigate the impact of climate change and adapt to its impacts • to protect, enhance and sustainably manage biodiversity, natural ecosystems, water resources, ecological processes and urban forest • to ensure that the risk to the community in areas subject to urban and natural hazards is minimised • to identify, protect and conserve environmental and cultural heritage and significant local character • to protect and enhance significant views	Relative emphasis on built heritage – medium. The particular aims of the LEP which relate to the protection of built heritage are: • to retain, protect and increase industrial and employment land and enhance the function and vitality of centres • to protect and enhance the amenity, vitality and viability of Inner West for existing and future residents, workers and visitors.	Emphasis on encouraging transport oriented, quality sustainable development and housing diversity: • to ensure development applies the principles of ecologically sustainable development • 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 • to promote accessible and diverse housing types to support people at all stages of life, including the provision and retention of affordable housing • to achieve a high-quality urban form and open space in the public and private domain

Council	Natural	Built	Approach to growth
	and vistas from the public domain and promote view sharing from and between private dwellings.		by ensuring new development exhibits architectural and urban design excellence • to prevent adverse social, economic and environmental impacts including cumulative impacts.
Ashfield	Relative emphasis on natural environment – medium. The particular aims of the LEP which relate to the protection of the natural environment are: • to promote the orderly and economic development of Ashfield in a manner that is consistent with the need to protect the environment • to identify and conserve the environmental and cultural heritage of Ashfield • to ensure that development has proper regard to environmental constraints and minimises any adverse impacts on biodiversity, water resources, riparian land and natural landforms • to require that new development incorporates the principles of ecologically sustainable development.	Relative emphasis on built heritage – medium. The particular aims of the LEP which relate to the protection of built heritage are: • to retain and enhance the identity of Ashfield as an early residential suburb with local service industries and retail centres • 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.	Emphasis on encouraging transport oriented, quality compact development: • 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 • 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.
Leichhardt	Relative emphasis on natural environment – high. The particular aims of the LEP which relate to the protection of the natural environment are to: • to ensure that development applies the principles of ecologically sustainable development	Relative emphasis on built heritage – high. The particular aims of the LEP which relate to the protection of built heritage are: • to maintain and enhance Leichhardt's urban environment • to minimise land use conflict and the	Emphasis on encouraging transport oriented, quality compact development: • 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

Council	Natural	Built	Approach to growth
	• to minimise land use conflict and the negative impact of urban development on the natural, social, economic, physical and historical environment • to identify, protect, conserve and enhance the environmental and cultural heritage of Leichhardt • 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 • to prevent undesirable incremental change, including demolition, that reduces the heritage significance of places, conservation areas and heritage items • 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 • 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 • to ensure that existing landforms and natural drainage systems are protected	negative impact of urban development on the natural, social, economic, physical and historical environment • 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 • 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.	the waterfront • 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 • 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. Also some emphasis on housing type and mix and affordability: • to promote accessible and diverse housing types, and affordable housing.

Council	Natural	Built	Approach to growth
	• to ensure that the risk to the community in areas subject to environmental hazards is minimised • to ensure that the impacts of climate change are mitigated and adapted to.		
Marrickville	Relative emphasis on natural environment – low/medium. The particular aims of the LEP which relate to the protection of the natural environment are to: • to ensure development applies the principles of ecologically sustainable development • to promote sustainable transport, reduce car use and increase use of public transport, walking and cycling.	Relative emphasis on built heritage – low/medium. The particular aims of the LEP which relate to the protection of the natural environment are to: • to identify and conserve the environmental and cultural heritage of Marrickville.	Emphasis on encouraging transport oriented, quality compact development: • to support the efficient use of land, vitalisation of centres, integration of transport and land use and an appropriate mix of uses • to increase residential and employment densities in appropriate locations near public transport while protecting residential amenity • to protect existing industrial land and facilitate new business and employment • to promote sustainable transport, reduce car use and increase use of public transport, walking and cycling. Also some emphasis on housing type and mix and affordability: • to promote accessible and diverse housing types including the provision and retention of affordable housing.

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 1st 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.

Appendix F Community engagement - communications campaign report

Communications Report

De-amalgamation

INNER WEST

Executive Summary

The De-amalgamation communications commenced following the Council meeting in 8 February 2022.

Purpose: To inform the community about the business case for de-amalgamation.

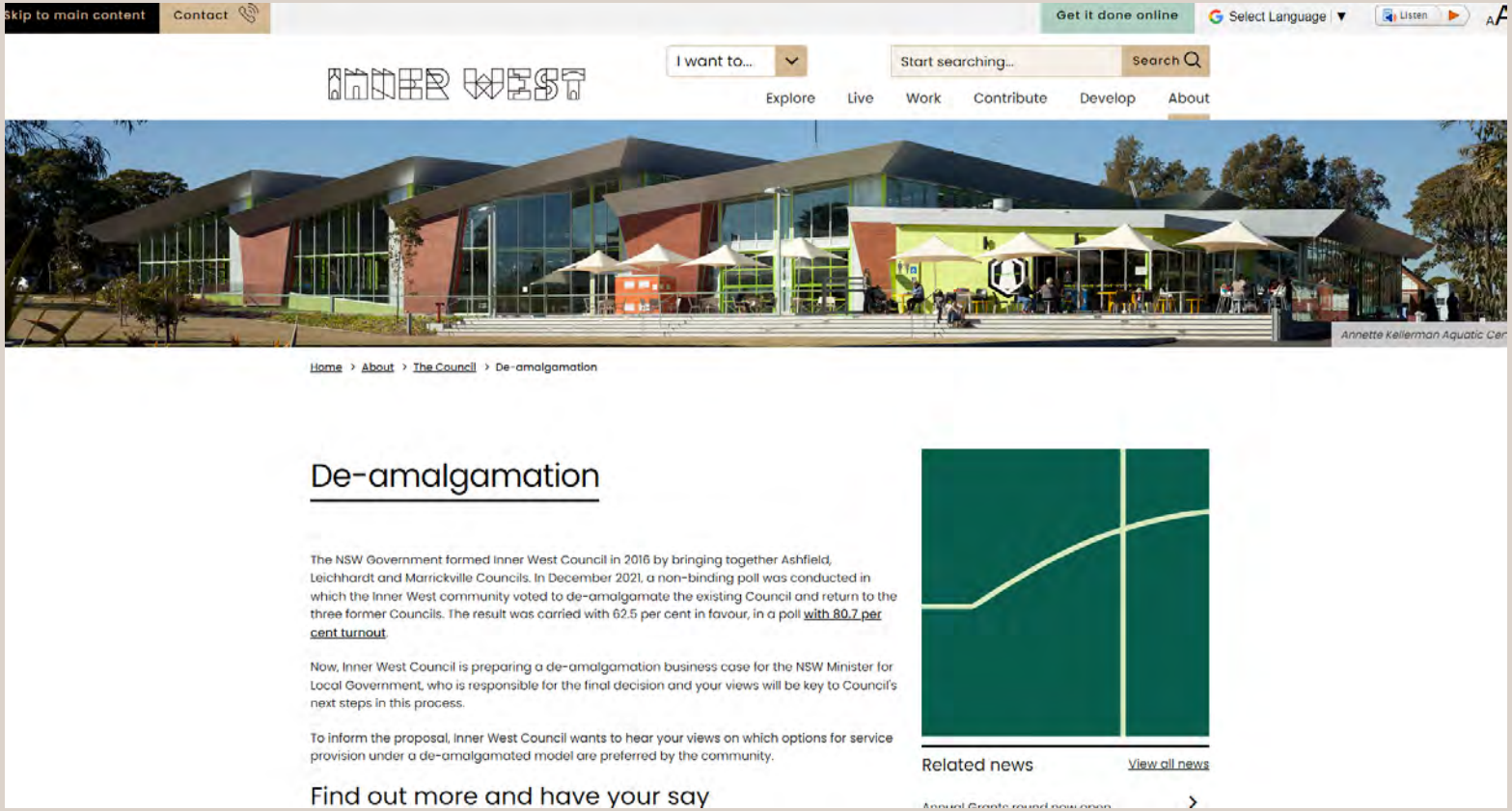
URL: www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/Deamalgamation

INNER WEST

Council web page

Page views: 3316

Date range:
8 February to 22 August

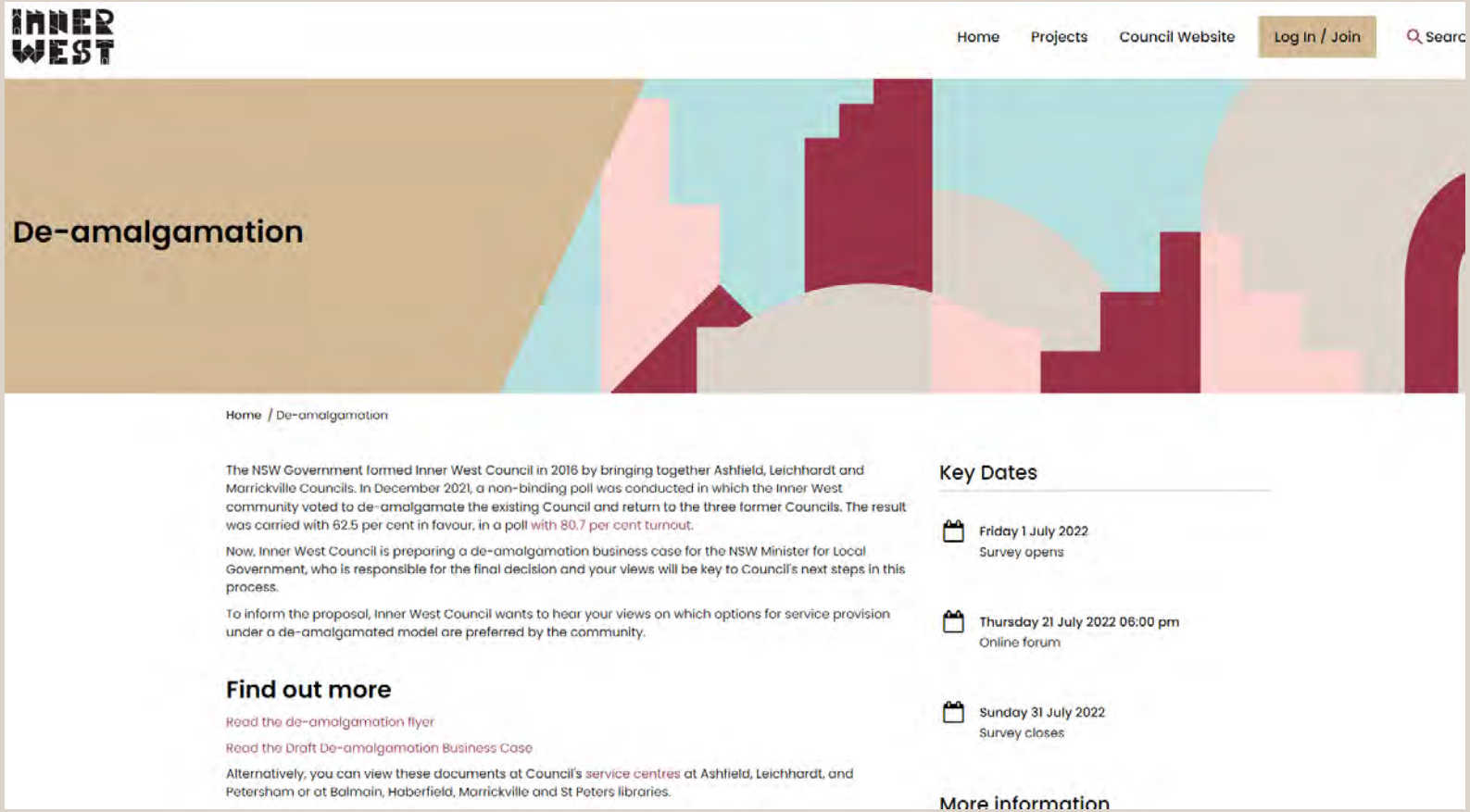


INNER WEST

Your Say Inner West web page

Page views: 707

Date range:
1 July to 22 August



INNER WEST

Media releases

Date: 4 July

Link:

Draft De-amalgamation Business Case – have your say - Inner West Council (nsw.gov.au)

Draft De-amalgamation Business Case – have your say

Monday 4 July 2022

At the election on 4 December 2021 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.

Council is now preparing a business case for the NSW Minister for Local Government to make a final decision on the de-amalgamation. Only the NSW Government has the power to de-amalgamate Council.

To inform the proposal Council wants to hear your views on which options for service provision under a de-amalgamated model are preferred by the community

Council has prepared a draft business case for community consultation which is open until Sunday 31 July.

All households will receive a summary in their letterbox shortly.

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Date: 7 July

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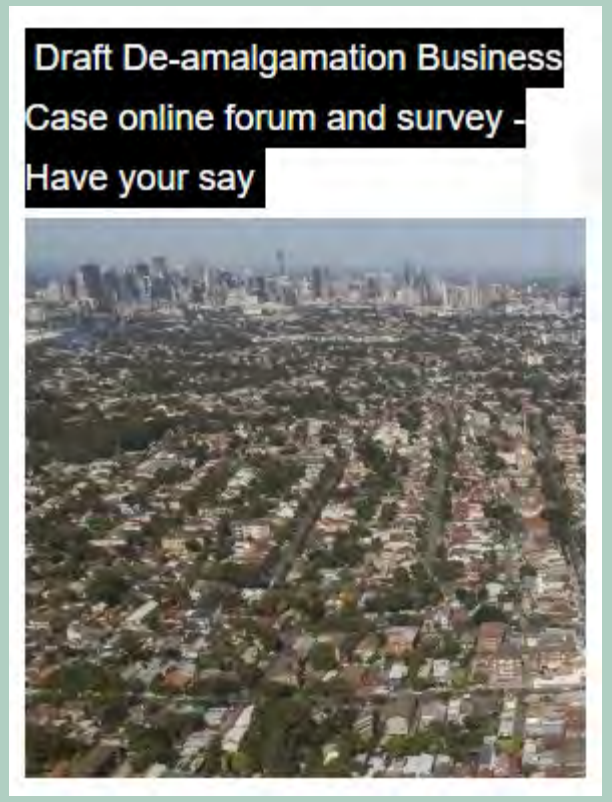
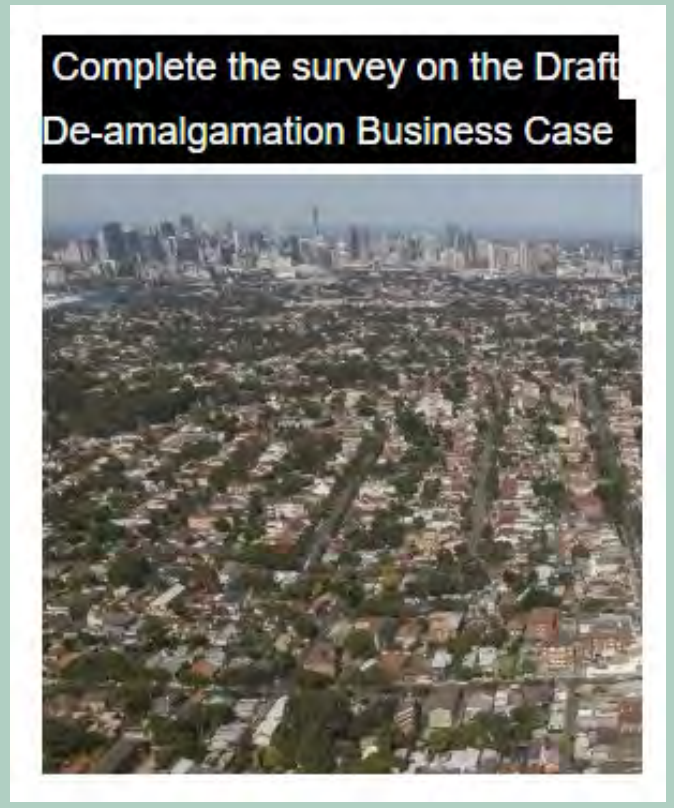


Date: 21 July

Subscribers: 5749



INNER WEST

Inner West Council news

Story title: De-amalgamation Community Consultation

Edition: July 2022

Page: 5

De-amalgamation Community Consultation

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.

Council is preparing a business case for NSW Minister for Local Government to make a final decision on the de-amalgamation.

To inform the proposal Council wants to hear your views on:

1. Whether to proceed with the de-amalgamation.
2. Which options for service provision under a de-amalgamated model are preferred by the community.

Council has prepared a draft business case for community consultation which is open to Sunday 31 July.

All households will receive a summary in the letterbox shortly.

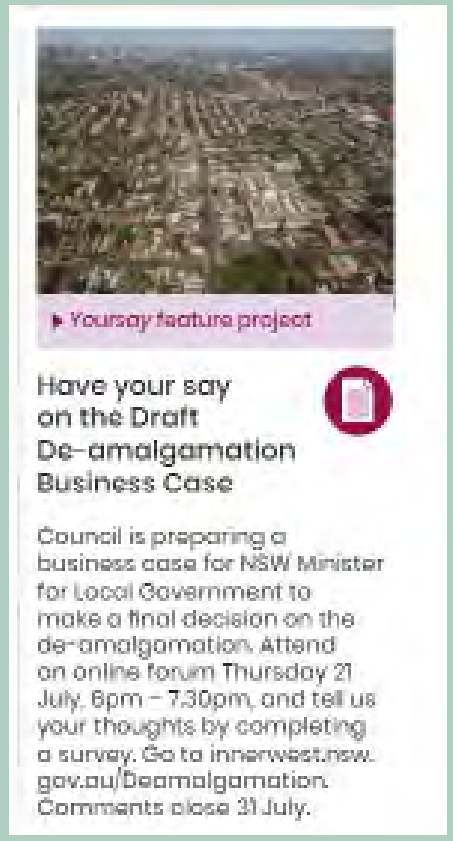
View the full business case at Council's service centres or website, attend an online forum Thursday 21 July 6.00-7.30pm, and tell us your thoughts by completing a survey.

innerwest.nsw.gov.au/Deamalgamation

The outcome of the community consultation will be reported to the September Ordinary Council Meeting and only the NSW Government has the power to de-amalgamate Council.

Print News

Date: City Hub - July edition

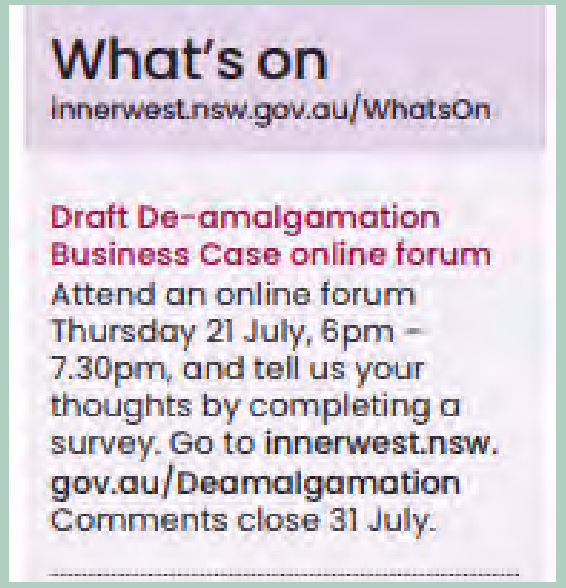


▸ Yoursay feature project

Have your say on the Draft De-amalgamation Business Case

Council is preparing a business case for NSW Minister for Local Government to make a final decision on the de-amalgamation. Attend an online forum Thursday 21 July, 6pm – 7.30pm, and tell us your thoughts by completing a survey. Go to innerwest.nsw.gov.au/Deamalgamation. Comments close 31 July.

Date: Inner West Review – 20 July



What's on

innerwest.nsw.gov.au/WhatsOn

Draft De-amalgamation Business Case online forum

Attend an online forum Thursday 21 July, 6pm – 7.30pm, and tell us your thoughts by completing a survey. Go to innerwest.nsw.gov.au/Deamalgamation Comments close 31 July.

Facebook

Date: 20 July

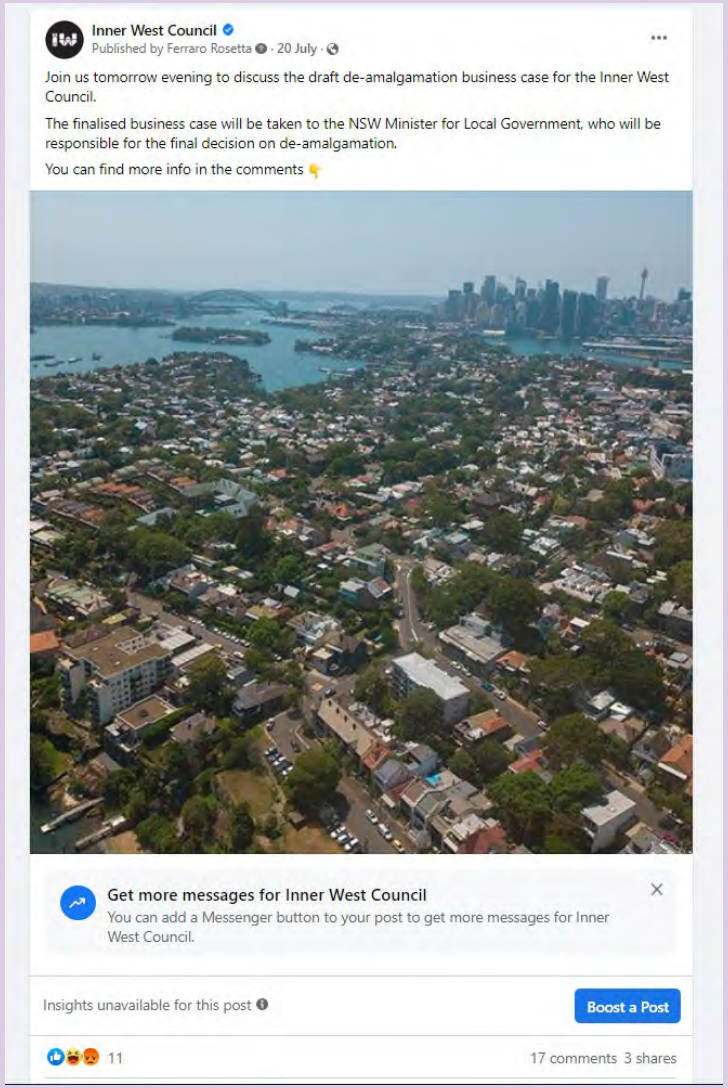
Type of post:

Organic post

Reach: 3076

Reactions: 40

Shares: 3



Date: 4 July

Type of post:

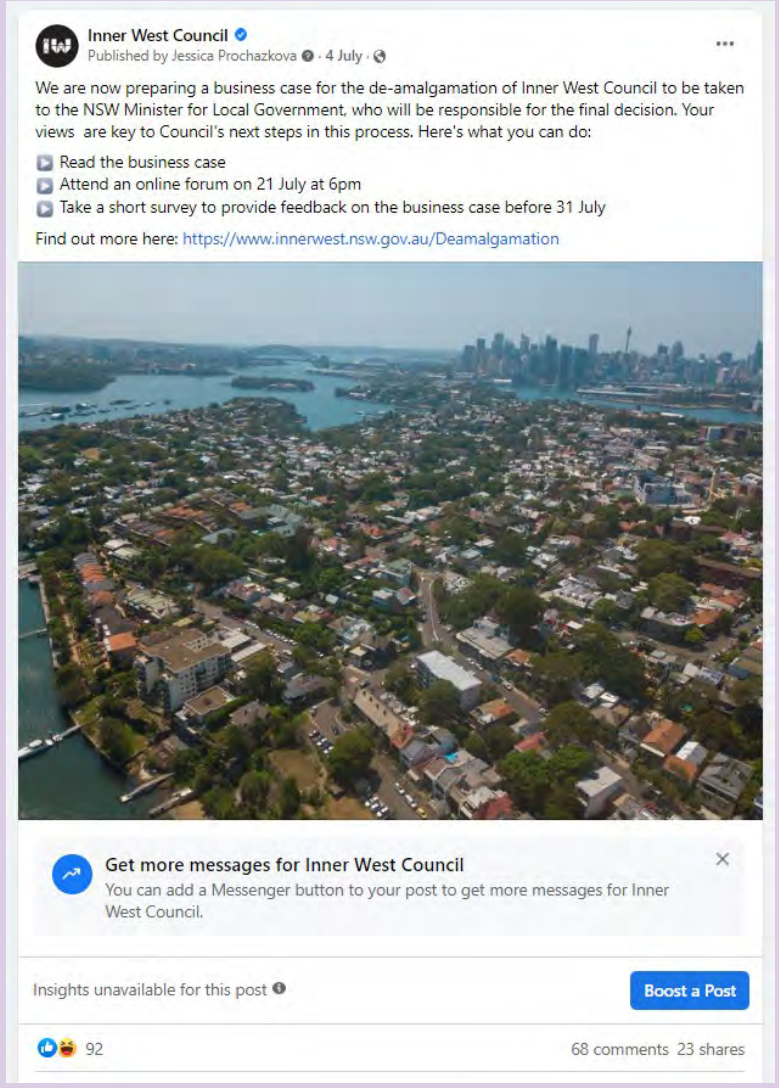
Organic

Reach: 13901

Reactions: 92

Shares: 23

Link clicks: 331



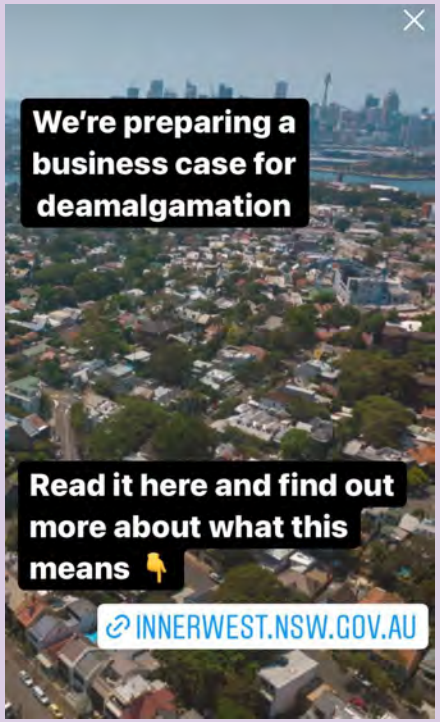
INNER WEST

Instagram

Date: July 2022

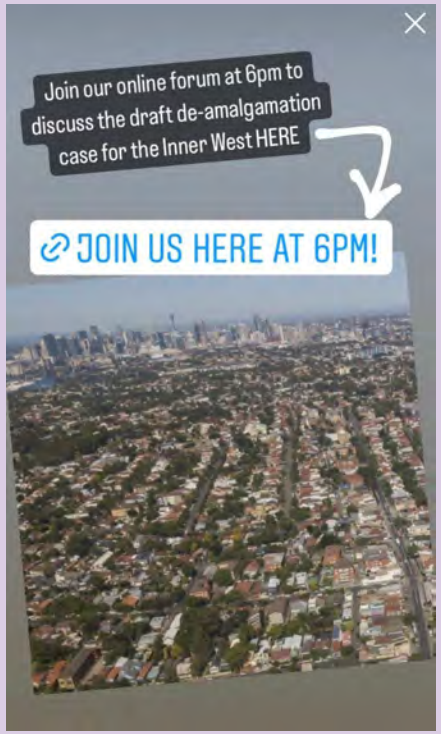
View: 2411

Link clicks: 198



Date: July 2022

Views:



INNER WEST

Twitter

Date: 20 July

Appendix G Online public forum- comments and questions

The table below provides an unedited excerpt of the comments and questions of participants of the live online public forum conducted between 6:00pm and 7:30pm on 21 July 2022.

Table 34 Online public forum – attendee comments and questions

Type	Timestamp	Content
Question	7/21/2022 8:06:42 AM	We've lost Peter's presentation
Question	7/21/2022 8:08:42 AM	Thank you!
Question	7/21/2022 8:25:26 AM	Why are we de-amalgamating when it is not needed? Services in the inner west council are better than ever and my rates have reduced $200 a year. How are you justifying worse service and a higher price?
Question	7/21/2022 8:27:14 AM	Can you please clarify that the poll did not cover 100% of the inner west? A %60 yes vote of 80% of the population is not statistically significant.
Question	7/21/2022 8:28:00 AM	In the flyer you refer to additional work commissioned to identify more risks when the de-merger goes ahead. The work was done by by Ernst & Young. Will you make this report available to everyone by posting it on the website?
Question	7/21/2022 8:29:45 AM	You have commissioned both Morrison Low and Ernst Young to provide reasons not to de-amalgamate. Which consultants /academics are you commissioning to provide reasons to go ahead with the de-amalgamation?
Question	7/21/2022 8:31:07 AM	Brisbane has since amalgamated to Brisbane city and have been netter for it, can you please use up to date information. Please make this known in the forum. This data is out of date.
Question	7/21/2022 8:32:40 AM	How are those "short term" defecits being recouped?
Question	7/21/2022 8:33:35 AM	What is the budget projection for a retained Inner West council? VS known deficits for a de-amalgamated council?
Question	7/21/2022 8:35:24 AM	What was the spread of the 'Yes' and 'No' vote across different areas of the proposed de-merger?
Response	7/21/2022 8:41:44 AM	Thank you(James Searson (Unverified) asked "What was the spread of the 'Yes' and 'No' vote across different areas of the proposed de-merger?")
Question	7/21/2022 8:39:47 AM	On the basis that the net present values (10-20yrs) are between -$178 million and -$260 million, and the majority of key benefits are not quantifiable, how likely is it that the business case would be supported by the Office of Local Government?
Announcement	7/21/2022 8:39:57 AM	Why are we de-amalgamating when it is not needed? Services in the inner west council are better than ever and my rates have reduced $200 a year. How are you justifying worse service and a higher price?
Announcement	7/21/2022 8:40:41 AM	Can you please clarify that the poll did not cover 100% of the inner west? A %60 yes vote of 80% of the population is not statistically significant.
Announcement	7/21/2022 8:41:31 AM	In the flyer you refer to additional work commissioned to identify more risks when the de-merger goes ahead. The work was done by by Ernst & Young. Will you make this report available to everyone by posting it on the website?
Announcement	7/21/2022 8:42:59 AM	You have commissioned both Morrison Low and Ernst Young to provide reasons not to de-amalgamate. Which consultants /academics are you commissioning to provide reasons to go ahead with the de-amalgamation?

Type	Timestamp	Content
Announcement	7/21/2022 8:43:38 AM	Brisbane has since amalgamated to Brisbane city and have been netter for it, can you please use up to date information. Please make this known in the forum. This data is out of date.
Question	7/21/2022 8:44:27 AM	Have future CPI increases been factored into the costings for provision of staffing services and admin?
Question	7/21/2022 8:44:44 AM	Thanks
Question	7/21/2022 8:44:59 AM	The analysis presented in the Morrison Low Buisness Case focuses primarily on the costs and risks of demerger. Have any data been collected relating to Council performance and service delivery post-amalgamation (KPIs, etc.) because my experience of Council services delivery is that they have decreased.
Announcement	7/21/2022 8:45:53 AM	How are those "short term" defecits being recouped?
Question	7/21/2022 8:45:54 AM	How much of the amalgamation has been completed - LEP, Rates etc ?
Announcement	7/21/2022 8:47:29 AM	What is the budget projection for a retained Inner West council? VS known deficits for a de-amalgamated council?
Question	7/21/2022 8:47:50 AM	People on their phones are asking how they can ask a question. Could you explain pleas
Response	7/21/2022 9:05:21 AM	Thanks(People on their phones are asking how they can ask a question. Could you explain pleas (Unverified) asked "People on their phones are asking how they can ask a question. Could you explain pleas")
Announcement	7/21/2022 8:48:44 AM	On the basis that the net present values (10-20yrs) are between -$178 million and -$260 million, and the majority of key benefits are not quantifiable, how likely is it that the business case would be supported by the Office of Local Government?
Announcement	7/21/2022 8:49:00 AM	Have future CPI increases been factored into the costings for provision of staffing services and admin?
Question	7/21/2022 8:50:19 AM	How will community consultation be incorporated into the business case? Will it be tacked on at the end or included in the report itself in a more integrated way?
Announcement	7/21/2022 8:51:36 AM	The analysis presented in the Morrison Low Buisness Case focuses primarily on the costs and risks of demerger. Have any data been collected relating to Council performance and service delivery post-amalgamation (KPIs, etc.) because my experience of Council services delivery is that they have decreased.
Announcement	7/21/2022 8:53:27 AM	How much of the amalgamation has been completed - LEP, Rates etc ?
Announcement	7/21/2022 8:54:20 AM	How will community consultation be incorporated into the business case? Will it be tacked on at the end or included in the report itself in a more integrated way?
Question	7/21/2022 8:54:27 AM	The comparison in the flyer with option A vs B is quite misleading and hard to understand. Why don't you just put the cost comparison between Amalgamation vs De-amalgamation?
Question	7/21/2022 8:54:44 AM	To clarify - and responding to James' question- the poll result was statistically significant with an 80% turn out of which over 60% voted YES to the de-amalgamation. We would not have this level of support for a de-merger if the majority of residents were happy with their forcibly amalgamated council. - clearly they are not Why has there been no research on why residents are not happy with the Inner West Council and why they want to go ahead with the de-amalgamation?
Question	7/21/2022 8:55:21 AM	I have already done the survey. How else can we get involved?

Type	Timestamp	Content
Question	7/21/2022 8:55:27 AM	Have you analysed impact on residents in terms of access? For example the Leichardt Transfer station only currently serves Inner West Council resident with proof of residence required. This place is crucial for many of the community's recycling needs. In the future will only l
Response	7/21/2022 8:56:59 AM	Thanks Moderator I have rewritten it(Justin from Lewisham (Unverified) asked "Have you analysed impact on residents in terms of access? For example the Leichardt Transfer station only currently serves Inner West Council resident with proof of residence required. This place is crucial for many of the community's recycling needs. In the future will only l")
Question	7/21/2022 8:56:00 AM	Will the libraries remain amalgamated even under de-amalgamation?
Question	7/21/2022 8:56:06 AM	What is the difference between to views ratepayers vs renters towards amalgamation vs deamalgumation?
Announcement	7/21/2022 8:56:31 AM	The comparison in the flyer with option A vs B is quite misleading and hard to understand. Why don't you just put the cost comparison between Amalgamation vs De-amalgamation?
Announcement	7/21/2022 8:56:41 AM	I have already done the survey. How else can we get involved?
Question	7/21/2022 8:56:45 AM	Have you analyzed impact on residents in terms of access? For example the Leichardt Transfer station only currently serves Inner West Council resident with proof of residence required. This place is crucial for many of the community's recycling needs. In the future will only Leichardt residents have access? Also what happens to user paid services? Is there analysis there? For example will Acquatic centre membership prices go up? now we can pay 1 fee and use 5 acquatic centres.
Question	7/21/2022 8:56:45 AM	Were the cost projections by Morrison Low on which all calculations were based done by budget or only at a high level?
Question	7/21/2022 8:57:00 AM	In the business case, was there any consideration of going back to the Council being run by an administrator? BTW I find the services by council staff to be much better.
Announcement	7/21/2022 8:57:45 AM	Will the libraries remain amalgamated even under de-amalgamation?
Announcement	7/21/2022 8:58:13 AM	What is the difference between to views ratepayers vs renters towards amalgamation vs deamalgumation?
Question	7/21/2022 8:58:34 AM	I'm getting two audio channels. One live, and one a rerun from the beginning of the session. Can you stop this?
Question	7/21/2022 8:58:38 AM	People having difficulty asking questions - can further questions be somehow taken after this webinAR and published on website?
Question	7/21/2022 8:59:02 AM	Will a poll be conducted again now that there is a business case showing the cost of deamalgmation ?

Type	Timestamp	Content
Question	7/21/2022 9:00:06 AM	Hard to see how Leichhardt, which was making $6 million in 2014/15 is now at with $5 million of the new and higher service level and is making a loss of $5 million. This needs to be explained to make the figures viable.
Question	7/21/2022 9:00:32 AM	Treasury guidelines say 'stake holders' should be consulted *before* the business case is put together. Council did not do this before asking ML to do prepare it. Option C could have been expanded if residents, local govt experts and others had been involved.
Announcement	7/21/2022 9:01:21 AM	Have you analyzed impact on residents in terms of access? For example the Leichardt Transfer station only currently serves Inner West Council resident with proof of residence required. This place is crucial for many of the community's recycling needs. In the future will only Leichardt residents have access? Also what happens to user paid services? Is there analysis there? For example will Acquatic centre membership prices go up? now we can pay 1 fee and use 5 acquatic centres.
Question	7/21/2022 9:02:00 AM	There is empirical research on deamalgamation in Australia. Joseph Drew has published academic research on deamalgamation, including the 2014 demalgamation of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council. Given the initial vote, will or could Council commission any policy or governance advice on the question? References: A Normative Model for Local Government De-Amalgamation in Australia No Aladdin's Cave in New South Wales? Local Government Amalgamation, Scale Economies, and Data Envelopment Analysis Specification Separation anxiety: an empirical evaluation of the Australian Sunshine Coast Regional Council de-amalgamation

Type	Timestamp	Content
Response	7/21/2022 9:07:31 AM	*Joseph Drew is Professor of Local Government and head of the Australian Centre for Local Government (Camilla (Unverified) asked "There is empirical research on deamalgamation in Australia. Joseph Drew has published academic research on deamalgamation, including the 2014 demalgamation of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council. Given the initial vote, will or could Council commission any policy or governance advice on the question? References: A Normative Model for Local Government De-Amalgamation in Australia No Aladdin's Cave in New South Wales? Local Government Amalgamation, Scale Economies, and Data Envelopment Analysis Specification Separation anxiety: an empirical evaluation of the Australian Sunshine Coast Regional Council de-amalgamation")
Announcement	7/21/2022 9:02:50 AM	Were the cost projections by Morrison Low on which all calculations were based done by budget or only at a high level?
Question	7/21/2022 9:02:51 AM	Would the impact on social infrastructure access raised by Justin and Emma be 'quantifiable for the purposes of the CBA?
Question	7/21/2022 9:03:09 AM	To follow up on my question re: Leichardt transfer station. Would the potential cost of every council building a new transfer station be included in the business case? These are all costs that should be considered and might apply to other facilities that need to be duplicated.
Announcement	7/21/2022 9:04:11 AM	In the business case, was there any consideration of going back to the Council being run by an administrator? BTW I find the services by council staff to be much better.
Announcement	7/21/2022 9:04:57 AM	Will a poll be conducted again now that there is a business case showing the cost of deamalgmation ?
Announcement	7/21/2022 9:06:44 AM	Treasury guidelines say ‘stake holders’ should be consulted *before* the business case is put together. Council did not do this before asking ML to do prepare it. Option C could have been expanded if residents, local govt experts and others had been involved.
Announcement	7/21/2022 9:07:56 AM	Would the impact on social infrastructure access raised by Justin and Emma be 'quantifiable for the purposes of the CBA?
Question	7/21/2022 9:08:53 AM	Thank you
Announcement	7/21/2022 9:09:51 AM	To follow up on my question re: Leichardt transfer station. Would the potential cost of every council building a new transfer station be included in the business case? These are all costs that should be considered and might apply to other facilities that need to be duplicated.
Question	7/21/2022 9:10:40 AM	I dont mean to be purposley obtuse with the transfer station. Its just one example of a place that checks IDs to prove where you live. To be fair the acquatic centres don't do that.

Type	Timestamp	Content
Response	7/21/2022 9:16:46 AM	Hi Moderator, no need to ask this it was just a comment. I think Peter just found it curious I was focusing on this specific transfer station. So thought I would reply.(Justin from Lewisham (Unverified) asked "I dont mean to be purposley obtuse with the transfer station. Its just one example of a place that checks IDs to prove where you live. To be fair the acquatic centres don't do that. ")
Question	7/21/2022 9:10:57 AM	Many councils across NSW are seeking to demerge. Should the IWC collaborate with those councils on making sensible, demerger plans?
Announcement	7/21/2022 9:12:00 AM	Hard to see how Leichhardt, which was making $6 million in 2014/15 is now at with $5 million of the new and higher service level and is making a loss of $5 million. This needs to be explained to make the figures viable.
Announcement	7/21/2022 9:14:00 AM	There is empirical research on deamalgamation in Australia. Joseph Drew has published academic research on deamalgamation, including the 2014 demalgamation of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council. Given the initial vote, will or could Council commission any policy or governance advice on the question? References: A Normative Model for Local Government De-Amalgamation in Australia No Aladdin's Cave in New South Wales? Local Government Amalgamation, Scale Economies, and Data Envelopment Analysis Specification Separation anxiety: an empirical evaluation of the Australian Sunshine Coast Regional Council de-amalgamation
Announcement	7/21/2022 9:15:43 AM	Many councils across NSW are seeking to demerge. Should the IWC collaborate with those councils on making sensible, demerger plans?
Question	7/21/2022 9:15:53 AM	The flyer says "The next step, if de-amalgamation proceeds, is to develop a plan to minimise or mitigate against the impact of these risks on the community" Clearly then - the work done by Morrison Low is not a plan to manage a demerger. This work has not been done. How will the Boundaries Commission recommend or the Minister approve a business proposal that has not properly addressed the risks and provided the plan required to address these risks?
Question	7/21/2022 9:17:29 AM	Why haven't you read out all my questions?
Question	7/21/2022 9:17:34 AM	Could you elaborate on Micromex questions?
Question	7/21/2022 9:19:27 AM	Will the slides used in this meeting be available to us to read. This microsoft teams is too small on my phone to read
Announcement	7/21/2022 9:20:37 AM	Will the slides used in this meeting be available to us to read. This microsoft teams is too small on my phone to read
Question	7/21/2022 9:21:16 AM	As a majority why won't it go ahead? You the IWC is hopeless. Reverse it.
Question	7/21/2022 9:21:32 AM	Thanks Peter and Janine for your time (and comms support folks!)
Question	7/21/2022 9:22:04 AM	Please hold thenext online meeting on zoom

Appendix H Micromex community survey report – telephone survey

Inner West Council

Community Survey – De-amalgamation

Prepared by: Micromex Research

Date: July 2022

INNER WEST

micromex research

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Community Survey

DE-AMALGAMATION

INNER WEST

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. This report summarises the results of a community survey conducted with N=601 residents. The survey sought feedback from the community regarding their support for the development of a business case to de-amalgamate.

Background and Methodology

Objectives:

- Explore community support for Council submitting a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation
- Identify the community's awareness of Council's exploration of community sentiment regarding de-amalgamation

Sample:

- Telephone survey to N = 601 residents (138 via landline and 463 via mobile phone)
- Greatest margin of error +/- 4.0%

Timing:

- Implementation 30th June – 6th July 2022

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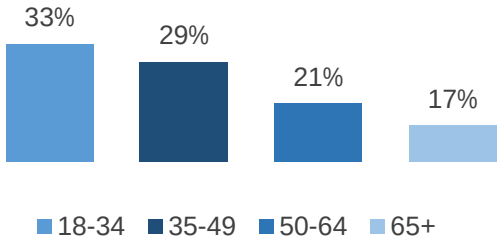
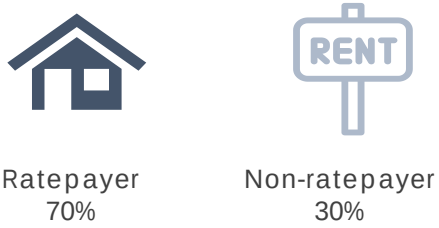
Sample Profile

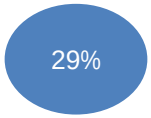
The sample was weighted by age and gender to reflect the 2021 ABS community profile of the Inner West LGA. The sample was also weighted by the previous LGA population distributions to reflect the 2011 ABS data – Further detail is provided in Appendix A.

Age



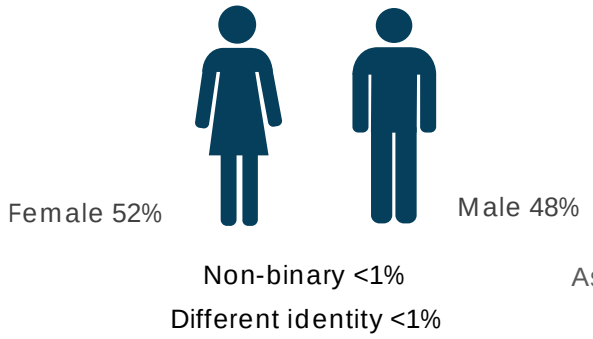
Ratepayer status



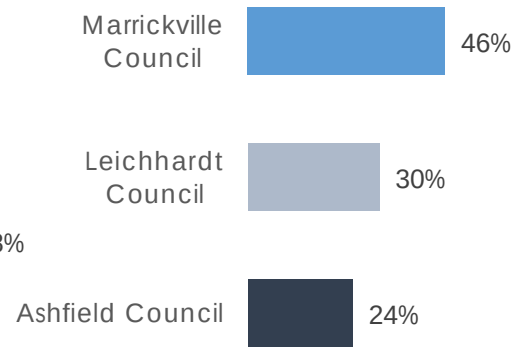


Identify as Culturally and Linguistically Diverse

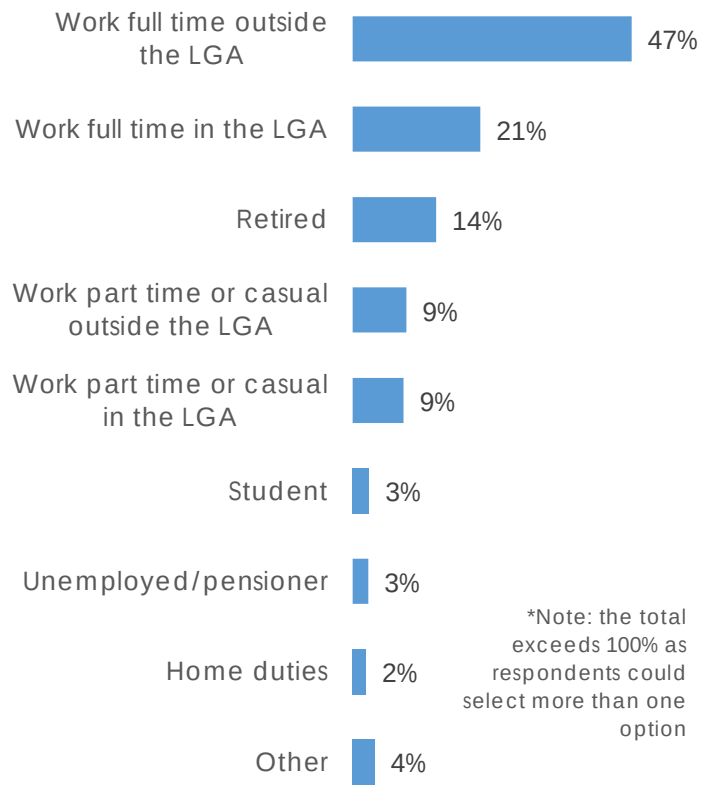
Gender



Previous LGA

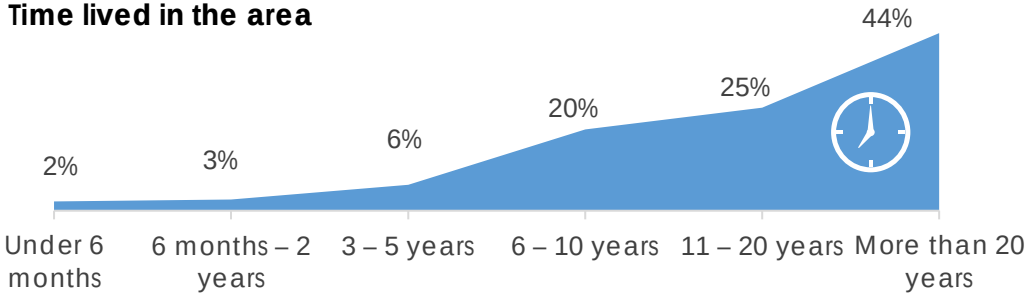


Employment status*



*Note: the total exceeds 100% as respondents could select more than one option

Time lived in the area



Base: N = 601

Summary of Findings

INNER WEST

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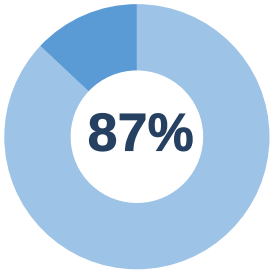
Summary of Findings

Overall Satisfaction with the Performance of Council



Of residents are at least somewhat satisfied with the **performance of Inner West Council** over the last 12 months

Key Priorities in the Local Council Area (unprompted)

- Improving road infrastructure/maintenance of roads (28%)
- Environmental protection/managing pollution/climate change/maintaining and provision of green open space (24%)
- Managing development/adequate planning/overdevelopment (13%)

Priorities for Council to Focus on in the Future (T2B Importance)

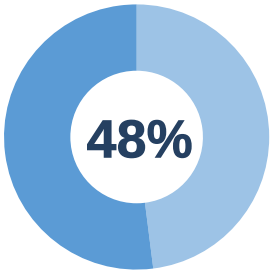
- Maintaining and provision of green open spaces **(92%)**
- Environmental protection **(85%)**
- Availability and access to public transport **(84%)**
- Council efficiency/good leadership and communication **(84%)**
- De-amalgamation of Inner West Council back into the previous Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils **(39%)**

87% of residents are at least 'somewhat satisfied' with the performance of Inner West Council across all responsibility areas for the last 12 months.

When asked to rank their priorities for the local area, 'de-amalgamation of Inner West Council' was rated comparatively lower in importance.

Summary of Findings

Awareness



Of Inner West residents were previously aware that Council was **exploring community sentiment to a de-amalgamation**

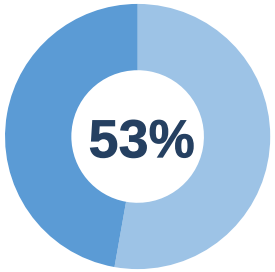
The most common ways residents were advised:

Voting in December 2021 **(34%)**

Social media **(17%)**

Mail out from Council **(16%)**

Overall Preference



Of Inner West residents prefer for Council to **remain as Inner West Council**

Top reasons for wanting to remain as Inner West Council (53%):

Cost implications/considerations/financial impact

Efficiency of service delivery/management

Top reasons for supporting the submission of the business case for (47%):

Smaller/individual council areas are better/provide improved management/better services/facilities

The amalgamated Council has not provided any improvement in service delivery/facilities/services have declined

53% of residents would prefer to remain as Inner West Council.

Detailed Results

1. Performance of Council and Key Priority Areas

Detailed Results

1. Performance of Council and Key Priority Areas

2. 2021 Poll on De-amalgamation

3. Support for Council's Preparation of a Business Case Supporting a De-amalgamation

This section explores residents' overall satisfaction with Council and residents' key priorities for Council in the local area.

INNER WEST

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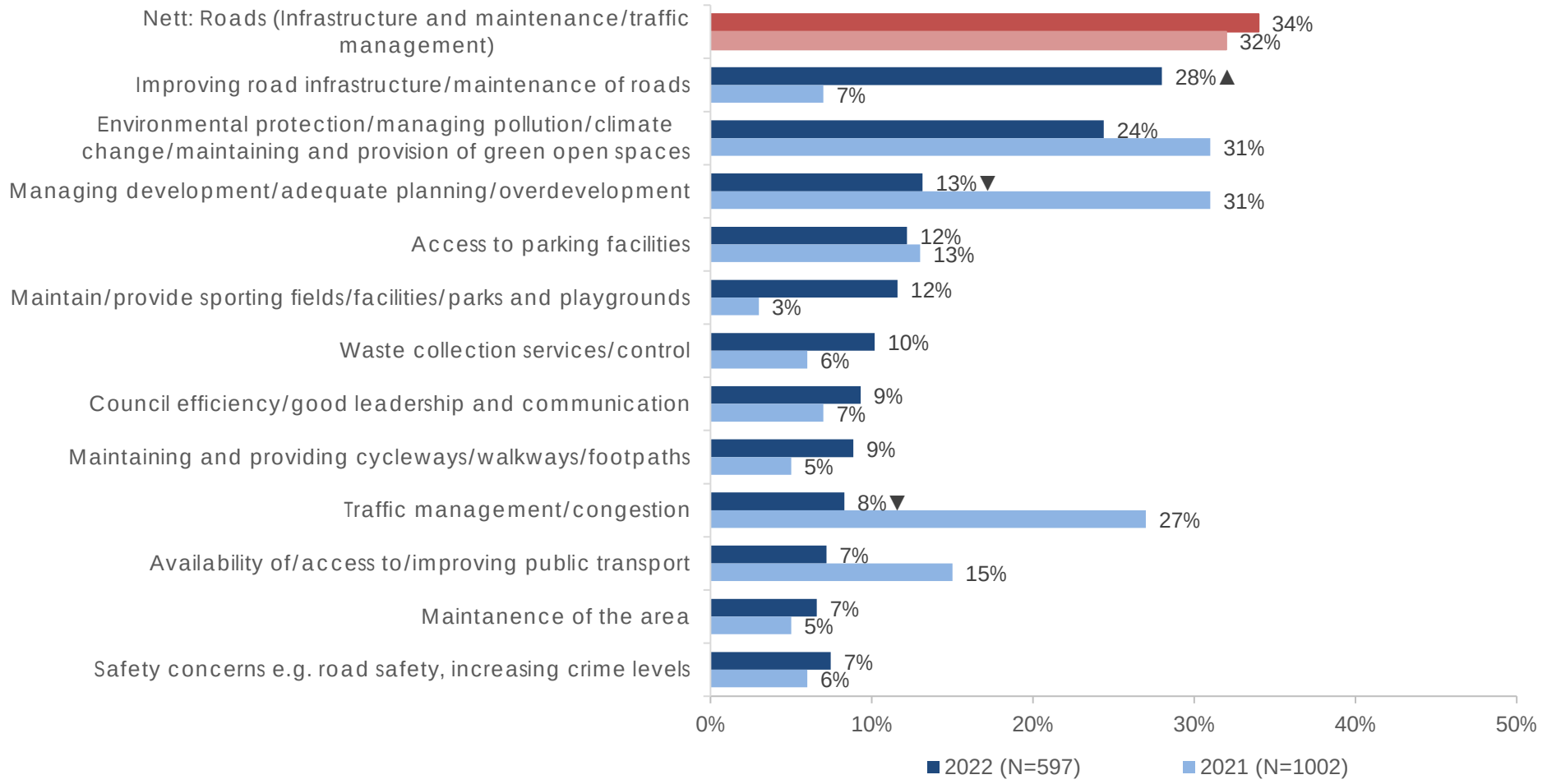
Key Priorities for Council in the Local Area (Unprompted)

Q2. What do you think are the key priorities for Council in the local area?



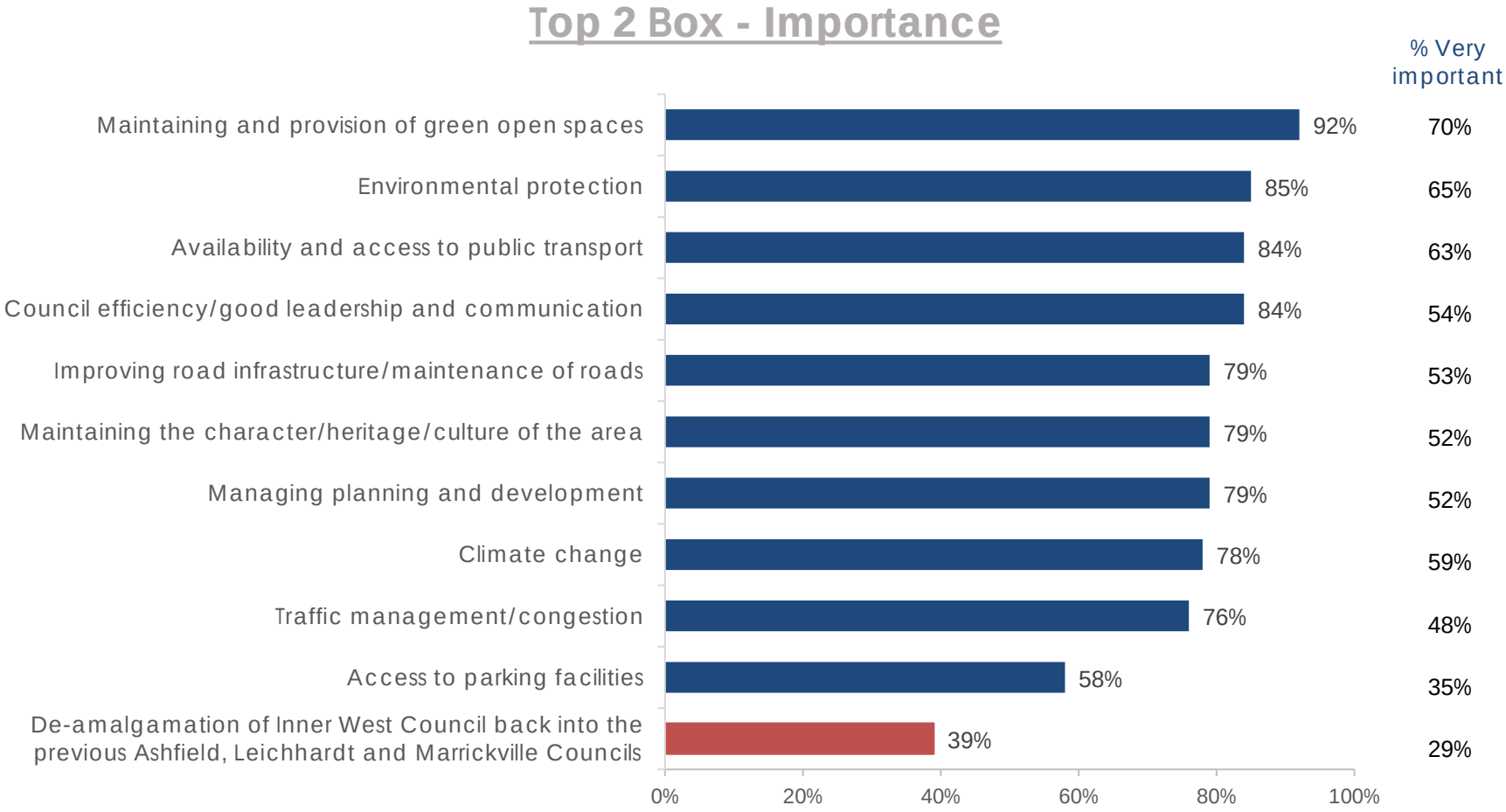
Please see Appendix A for priorities <7%

▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage by year

In this unprompted question, residents' key priorities for Council included, 'improving the road infrastructure/maintenance of roads' and 'environmental protection/managing climate change/maintaining and provision of green open spaces'. The results of this survey have seen a shift in key priorities, particularly in regards to road maintenance and traffic management. This is likely resultant of the weather experienced in the past six months, with the focus shifted from traffic congestion to road maintenance. Changes in the priority of managing development may also be attributed to a decline in construction due to the weather phenomenon and reductions in new development during the past 12 months as a result of Covid restrictions.

Priorities for Council to Focus on in the Local Area

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...



Base: N = 601

The community prioritises many issues significantly more important than de-amalgamation.

Priorities for Council to Focus on In the Local Area

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...

Top 2 Box % (Very important/Important)	Overall	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	CALD Background (Yes)	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Maintaining and provision of green open spaces	92%	94%	95%	89%	87%▼	91%	90%	97%▲
Environmental protection	85%	85%	85%	85%	84%	85%	83%	90%
Availability and access to public transport	84%	88%	82%	80%	86%	84%	82%	89%
Council efficiency/good leadership and communication	84%	88%	82%	82%	81%	87%	83%	87%
Maintaining the character/heritage/ culture of the area	79%	75%	83%	77%	84%	76%	80%	77%
Improving road infrastructure/maintenance of roads	79%	75%	86%▲	79%	78%	82%	79%	79%
Managing planning and development	79%	70%▼	81%	86%▲	83%	87%	83%▲	70%
Climate change	78%	85%	78%	73%	71%▼	77%	74%	86%▲
Traffic management/congestion	76%	74%	77%	78%	76%	79%	79%▲	69%
Access to parking facilities	58%	45%▼	64%	64%	66%▲	65%	59%	55%
De-amalgamation of Inner West Council back into the previous Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils	39%	29%▼	38%	46%	49%▲	41%	40%	35%

▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of importance

Ratepayers consider 'managing planning and development' and 'traffic management/congestion' significantly more important.

Residents aged 65+ rated the importance of de-amalgamating Inner West Council significantly higher.

Priorities for Council to Focus on In the Local Area

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...

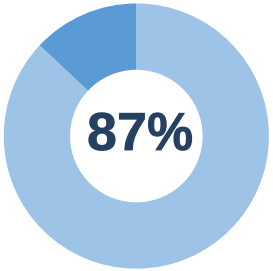
Top 2 Box % (Very important/Important)	Previous LGA			Time lived in the LGA			Support for de-amalgamation	
	Marrickville Council	Leichhardt Council	Ashfield Council	<5 years	6 – 10 years	10+ years	Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Remain as Inner West Council
Maintaining and provision of green open spaces	93%	90%	92%	93%	94%	91%	94%	90%
Environmental protection	84%	83%	89%	92%	83%	85%	88%	83%
Availability and access to public transport	85%	82%	85%	95%	84%	83%	84%	84%
Council efficiency/good leadership and communication	84%	84%	85%	87%	80%	85%	87%	82%
Maintaining the character/ heritage/culture of the area	79%	84%	75%	84%	79%	79%	83%	77%
Improving road infrastructure/ maintenance of roads	79%	78%	81%	80%	79%	79%	79%	80%
Managing planning and development	79%	77%	81%	80%	71%	81%	78%	79%
Climate change	77%	77%	79%	90%▲	74%	77%	79%	76%
Traffic management/ congestion	79%	76%	70%	79%	70%	77%	81%▲	72%
Access to parking facilities	56%	62%	56%	50%	50%	62%▲	62%	55%
De-amalgamation of Inner West Council back into the previous Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils	40%	42%	32%	31%	28%▼	43%▲	67%▲	14%

▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of importance

Residents who have lived in the LGA for fewer than 5 years rated the importance of climate change significantly higher.

Overall Satisfaction with the Performance of Council

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?



Of Inner West residents are at least somewhat satisfied with the **performance of Council** over the last 12 months

	Overall	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	CALD Background (Yes)	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Mean rating	3.49	3.71▲	3.39	3.30▼	3.47	3.47	3.35	3.80▲
Top 3 Box	87%	94%▲	84%	80%▼	85%	85%	83%	97%▲
Base	600	196	175	128	101	176	420	179

	Previous LGA			Time lived in the LGA		
	Marrickville Council	Leichhardt Council	Ashfield Council	<5 years	6 – 10 years	10+ years
Mean rating	3.56	3.39	3.45	3.83▲	3.70▲	3.37
Top 3 Box	88%	84%	88%	97%▲	91%	84%
Base	273	182	145	68	117	415

Scale: 1 = not at all satisfied, 5 = very satisfied
▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of satisfaction

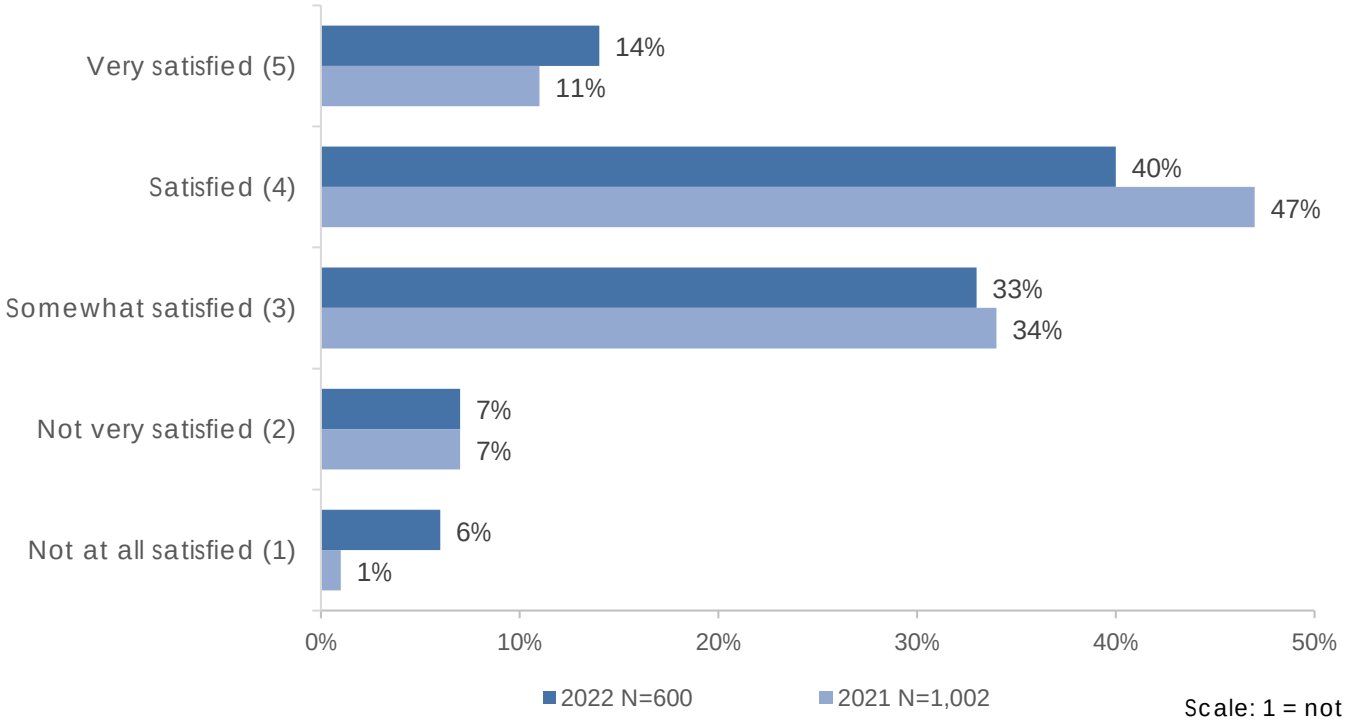
87% of residents are at least somewhat satisfied with the performance of Council.

Satisfaction levels are highest amongst those aged 18-34, non-ratepayers and those who have lived in the area for fewer than five years.

Overall Satisfaction with the Performance of Council

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?

	Overall	Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Remain as Inner West Council	Inner West Council Community Research 2021	Micromex LGA Benchmark - Metro
Mean rating	3.49	3.25	3.70▲	3.58	3.59
T3 Box	87%	81%	92%▲	92%	90%
Base	600	281	315	1,002	45,633



Scale: 1 = not at all satisfied, 5 = very satisfied
▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of satisfaction

Residents who prefer Council to remain as Inner West Council expressed a higher level of satisfaction with Council overall.

2. 2021 Poll on De-amalgamation

Detailed Results

1. Performance of Council and Key Priority Areas

2. 2021 Poll on De-amalgamation

3. Support for Council's Preparation of a Business Case Supporting a De-amalgamation

This section explores residents' awareness of Council's exploration of community sentiment to de-amalgamation.

INNER WEST

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Introduction – Read to Respondents

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

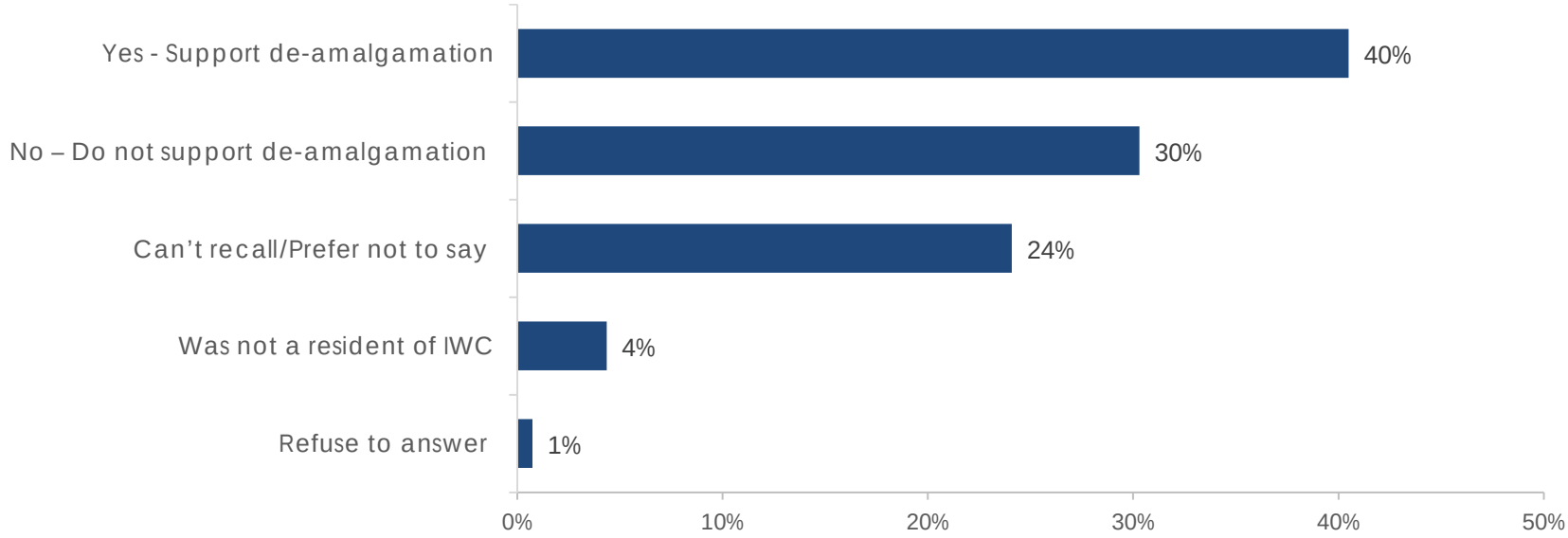
Inner West Council voted to conduct a poll on de-amalgamation at the election on 4 December. A non-binding poll was held regarding the potential de-amalgamation of Inner West Council and the results were that 62.49% of voters asked for a de-amalgamation.

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

2021 Poll on De-amalgamation

Q5a. Can I ask what you voted for in 2021?

	Overall	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	CALD Background (Yes)	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	40%	34%	42%	40%	51%▲	36%	40%	42%
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	30%	22%▼	32%	36%	37%	25%	33%	23%
Can't recall/Prefer not to say	24%	34%▲	21%	23%	12%▼	33%	22%	28%
Base	601	196	175	128	102	176	421	179



Base: N = 601

▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by group)

40% of residents indicated that they voted to support de-amalgamation during the 2021 poll. Residents aged 65+ were significantly more likely to have voted in support of the de-amalgamation.

2021 Poll on De-amalgamation

Q5a. Can I ask what you voted for in 2021?

	Previous LGA			Time lived in the LGA			Support for de-amalgamation	
	Marrickville Council	Leichhardt Council	Ashfield Council	<5 years	6-10 years	10+ years	Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Remain as Inner West Council
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	41%	48%▲	30%▼	25%	42%	42%	72%▲	13%
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	30%	29%	33%	24%	27%	32%	9%	50%▲
Can't recall/Prefer not to say	25%	19%	29%	24%	27%	23%	13%	33%▲
Base	273	182	145	69	117	415	282	315

▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by group)

Residents of the previous Ashfield Council were significantly less likely to have voted in support of the de-amalgamation in the 2021 poll.

2021 Poll on De-amalgamation – Reasons for Support

Q5a. Can I ask what you voted for in 2021?

Q5b. (Only if Yes or No on Q5a) Why did you vote that way?

Reasons for supporting de-amalgamation	Base N=243
The three areas are very diverse and have different local priorities, e.g. culturally, geographically etc	33%
The amalgamated Council has not provided any improvement in service delivery/facilities/services have declined	27%
The smaller/individual council areas were easier to manage/provided better services/facilities	12%
Amalgamation has removed governance/decision making from the community, a more localised response is needed	10%
Communication/engagement/transparency with the community	10%
Efficiency of service delivery/management	10%
Inner West is too much of a large area/large population for one Council	10%
Cost implications/considerations/financial impact	7%
Amalgamating the councils was not in the best interests of the community initially	5%
Three separate councils are better for preserving the heritage/character of the different areas	3%
Inner West Council is more supportive of planning/development	1%
Amalgamation has failed in other councils	<1%
Other	12%
Don't know/unsure	7%

Verbatim Comments

"Each council should be its own entity as the areas are vastly different"

"Noticeable decline in Council services and maintenance since amalgamation"

"Small local government is better suited to the specific needs of the local area"

"Councils are more effective in supporting the communities needs when they are smaller"

"Everything is too big and has become unmanageable"

"There are too many suburbs under the umbrella of one council and other smaller areas are missing out"

For residents who supported de-amalgamation in the 2021 poll, their primary reasons centred on the diversity of the three previous LGAs and their differing local priorities, as well as a perceived decline/lack of improvement in services/facilities in the area since the amalgamation.

2021 Poll on De-amalgamation – Reasons for Against

Q5a. Can I ask what you voted for in 2021?

Q5b. (Only if Yes or No on Q5a) Why did you vote that way?

Reasons for NOT supporting de-amalgamation	Base N=182
Cost implications/considerations/financial impact	42%
The amalgamated Council has better managed/provided improved services in the area	28%
Efficiency of service delivery/management	18%
I don't think de-amalgamation will benefit the community/no cause for de-amalgamation	10%
Inner West Council is doing a good job/Satisfied with the Council currently	10%
Communication/engagement/transparency with the community	4%
De-amalgamation is not viable/More changes to Council are not productive	4%
The amalgamated Council provides a stronger, more independent voice for residents	2%
The amalgamation has provided a good identity for the community/people identify as a part of the Inner West community	2%
The amalgamated Council is focused on larger issues (e.g. climate change, recycling, sustainability) rather than localised issues	1%
Inner West Council is more supportive of planning/development	1%
Council performance could be improved without de-amalgamation	1%
Other	10%
Don't know/unsure	5%

Verbatim Comments

"Efficiencies and collaboration with a larger council works better - has improved the area overall"

"We are here now and can't go back in time and waste money"

"The amalgamated council has better management of the area"

"They operate far better now as one council"

"The Inner West council has been more efficient and affective as a larger council"

"Its too late to de-amalgamate, it would take too much time and resources"

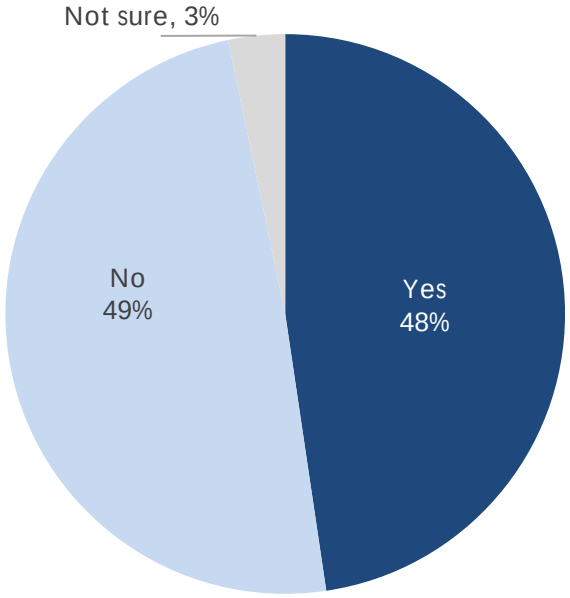
Current council has a broader vision for the whole LGA than as individual council areas

The primary reasons for <u>not supporting</u> the de-amalgamation included cost considerations/financial implications, as well as perceived improvements in services and efficiencies within the Inner West Council.

Awareness of Council Exploring Community Sentiment to De-amalgamation

Q9a. Prior to this call, were you aware that Council was exploring community sentiment towards a de-amalgamation?

	Overall	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	CALD Background (Yes)	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Yes	48%	34%▼	55%▲	51%	57%▲	40%	50%	42%
Base	601	196	175	128	102	176	421	179



	Previous LGA			Time lived in the LGA			Support for de-amalgamation	
	Marrickville Council	Leichhardt Council	Ashfield Council	<5 years	6 – 10 years	10+ years	Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Remain as Inner West Council
Yes	46%	54%	44%	29%▼	49%	50%	52%	43%
Base	273	182	145	69	117	415	282	315

Base: N = 601

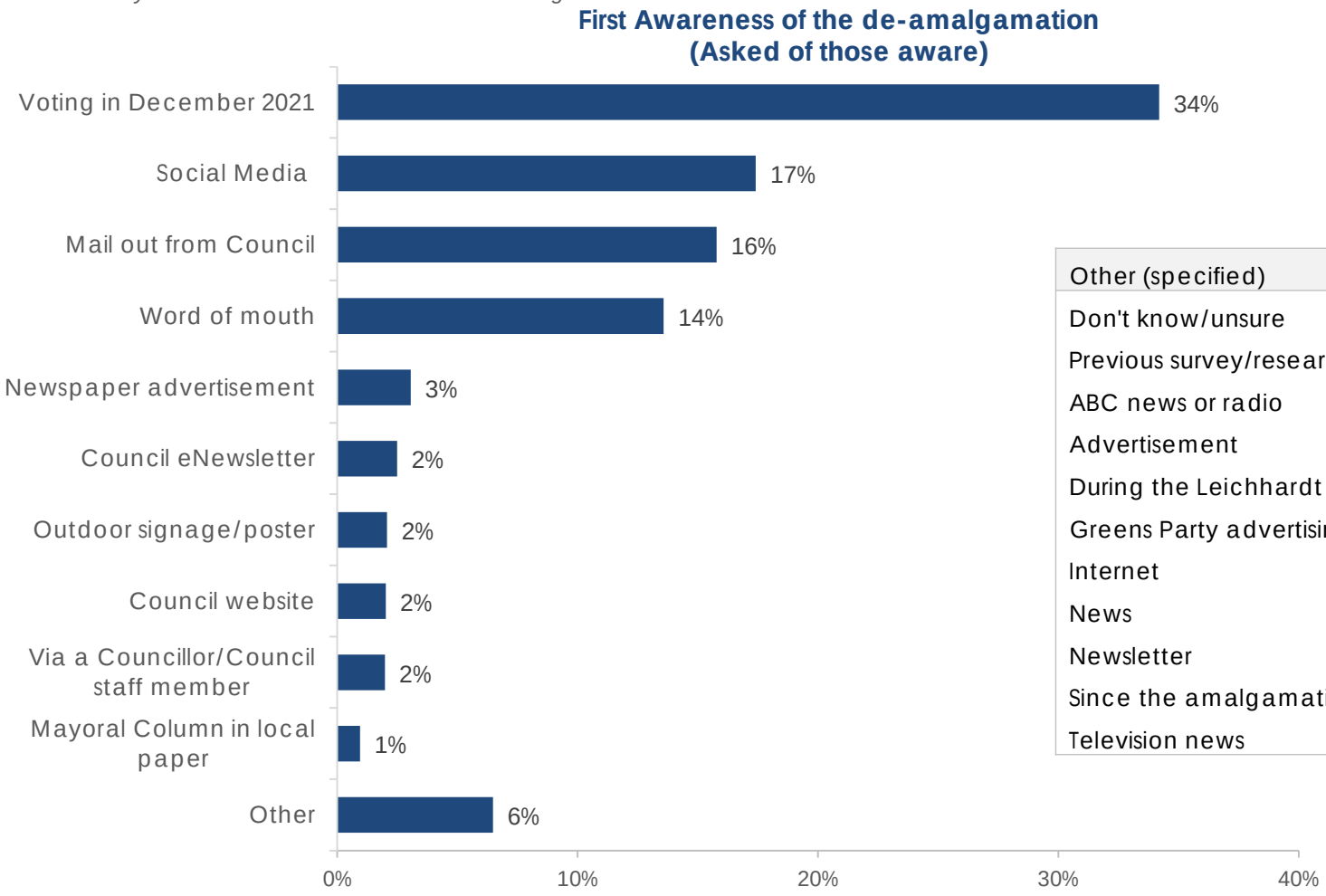
▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of awareness

Almost half of residents were aware Council was exploring community sentiment towards de-amalgamation.

Awareness levels were highest amongst those aged 35-49 and 65+.

First Awareness of the De-amalgamation

Q9a. Prior to this call, were you aware that Council was exploring community sentiment towards a de-amalgamation?
Q9b. How did you first become aware of the de-amalgamation?

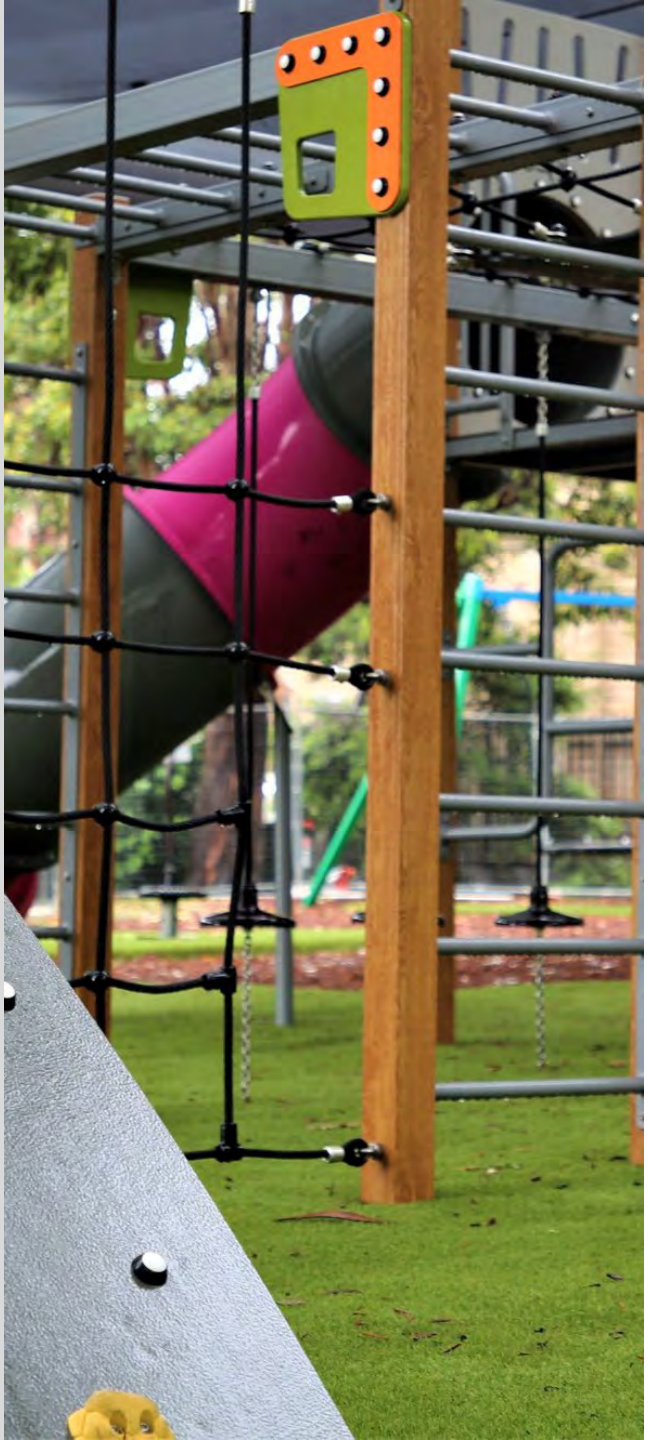


Other (specified)	
Don't know/unsure	6
Previous survey/research report	2
ABC news or radio	1
Advertisement	1
During the Leichhardt change	1
Greens Party advertising	1
Internet	1
News	1
Newsletter	1
Since the amalgamation took place	1
Television news	1

Base: N = 286

Of those residents aware of the exploration, 34% became aware via the poll in 2021, 17% via 'social media' and 16% 'mail out from Council'.

3. Support for Council's Preparation of a Business Case Supporting a De-amalgamation



Detailed Results

1. Performance of Council and Key Priority Areas

2. 2021 Poll on De-amalgamation

3. **Support for Council's Preparation of a Business Case Supporting a De-amalgamation**

This section explores residents' support for Council preparing a business case supporting de-amalgamation.

INNER WEST

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Concept Statement

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.

Concept Statement (Cont'd)

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

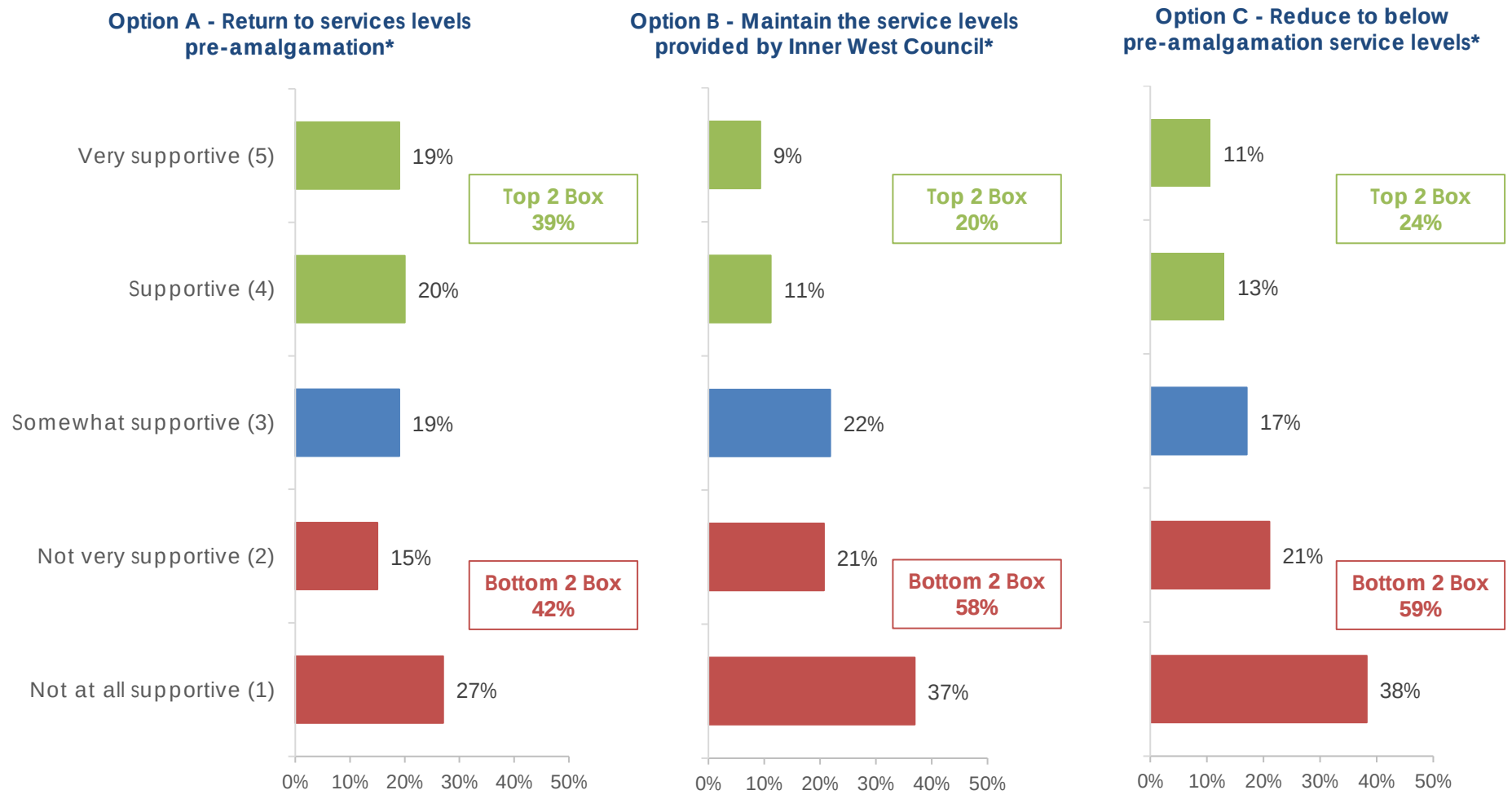
Option B De-amalgamate and maintain the service levels provided by the current Inner West Council

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.

Summary of Support for Options

Q6. How supportive, if at all, are you of Council proceeding with Option A/B/C?



Base: N = 601

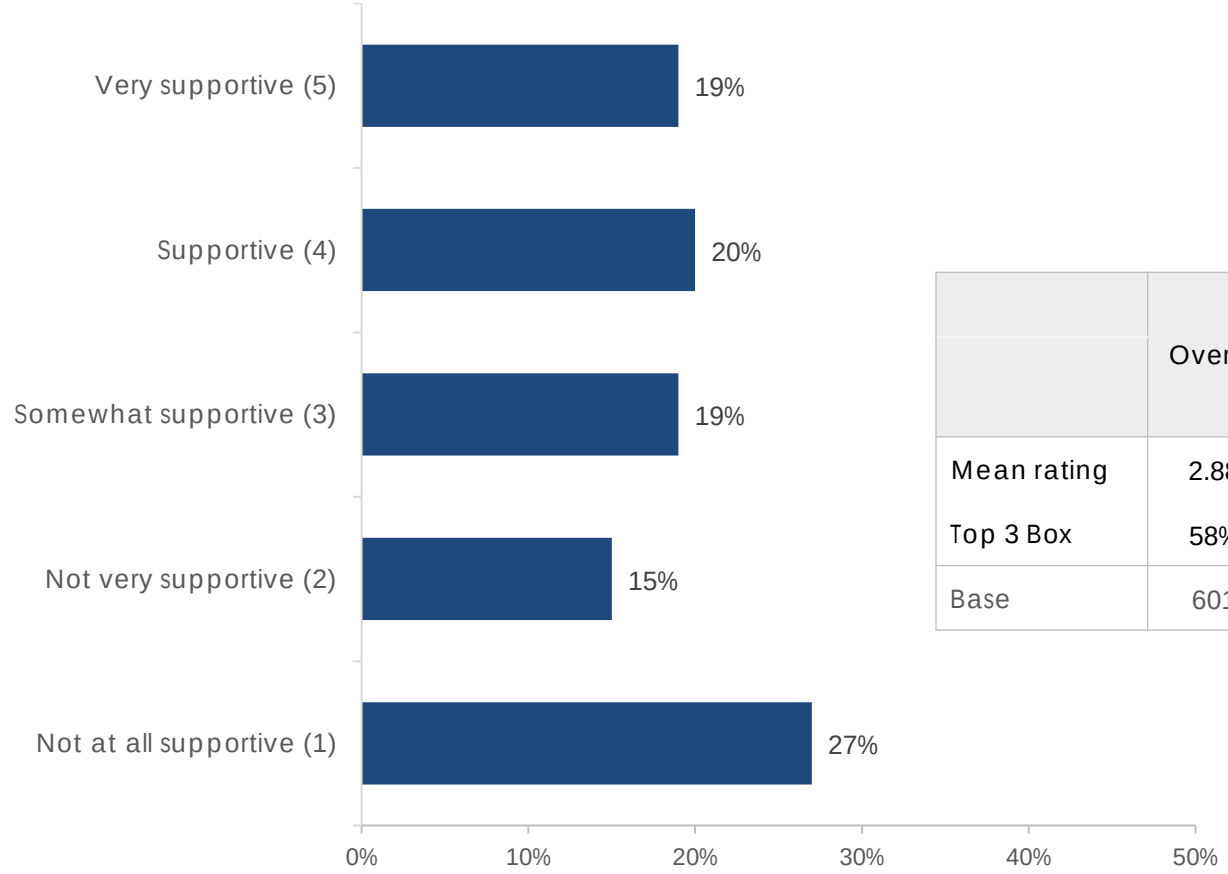
*Please see the following slides for a complete description of options

Level of support is highest for Option A – but could not be considered overwhelmingly strong.

Support for 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.

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



	Overall	Support for de-amalgamation	
		Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Remain as Inner West Council
Mean rating	2.88	3.85▲	2.01
Top 3 Box	58%	86%▲	33%
Base	601	282	315

Scale: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = very supportive
▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of support

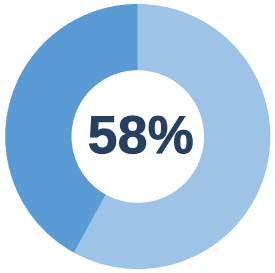
Base: N = 601

Just over half of residents are at least 'somewhat supportive' of Option A, where Council would de-amalgamate and return to service levels provided prior to amalgamation.

Support for 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.

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



Of Inner West residents are at least 'somewhat supportive' of Option A (De-amalgamate and return to service levels provided prior to amalgamation).

	Overall	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	CALD Background (Yes)	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Mean rating	2.88	2.79	3.02	2.92	2.79	2.85	2.91	2.81
Top 3 Box	58%	57%	63%	58%	53%	58%	58%	58%
Base	601	196	175	128	102	176	421	179

	Previous LGA			Time lived in the LGA		
	Marrickville Council	Leichhardt Council	Ashfield Council	<5 years	6 – 10 years	10+ years
Mean rating	2.99	2.96	2.59▼	2.77	2.74	2.94
Top 3 Box	60%	63%	48%▼	48%	53%	61%
Base	273	182	145	69	117	415

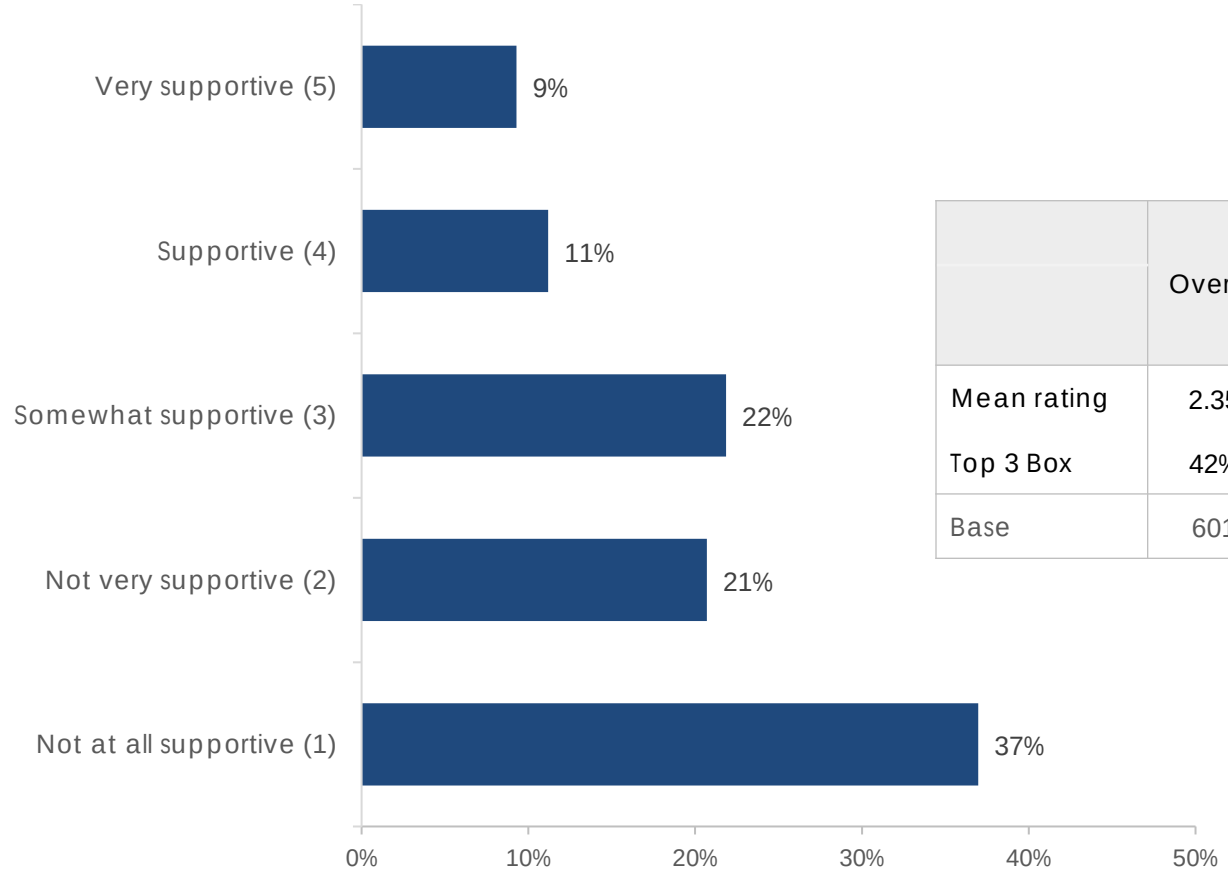
Scale: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = very supportive
▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of support

Residents of the previous Ashfield Council were significantly less supportive of this option.

Support for 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.

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



	Overall	Support for de-amalgamation	
		Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Remain as Inner West Council
Mean rating	2.35	2.75▲	1.98
Top 3 Box	42%	56%▲	29%
Base	601	282	315

Scale: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = very supportive
▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of support

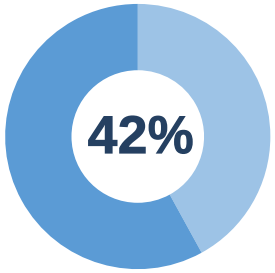
Base: N = 601

42% of Inner West residents are at least 'somewhat supportive' of Option B, which included de-amalgamation and maintaining the service levels provided by the current Inner West Council.

Support for 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.

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



Of Inner West residents are at least 'somewhat supportive' of Option B (De-amalgamate and maintain the service levels provided by the current Inner West Council).

	Overall	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	CALD Background (Yes)	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Mean rating	2.35	2.35	2.48	2.34	2.15	2.31	2.28	2.54
Top 3 Box	42%	43%	46%	42%	35%▼	39%	40%	48%
Base	601	196	175	128	102	176	421	179

	Previous LGA			Time lived in the LGA		
	Marrickville Council	Leichhardt Council	Ashfield Council	<5 years	6 – 10 years	10+ years
Mean rating	2.34	2.44	2.26	2.39	2.42	2.32
Top 3 Box	43%	43%	41%	46%	42%	42%
Base	273	182	145	69	117	415

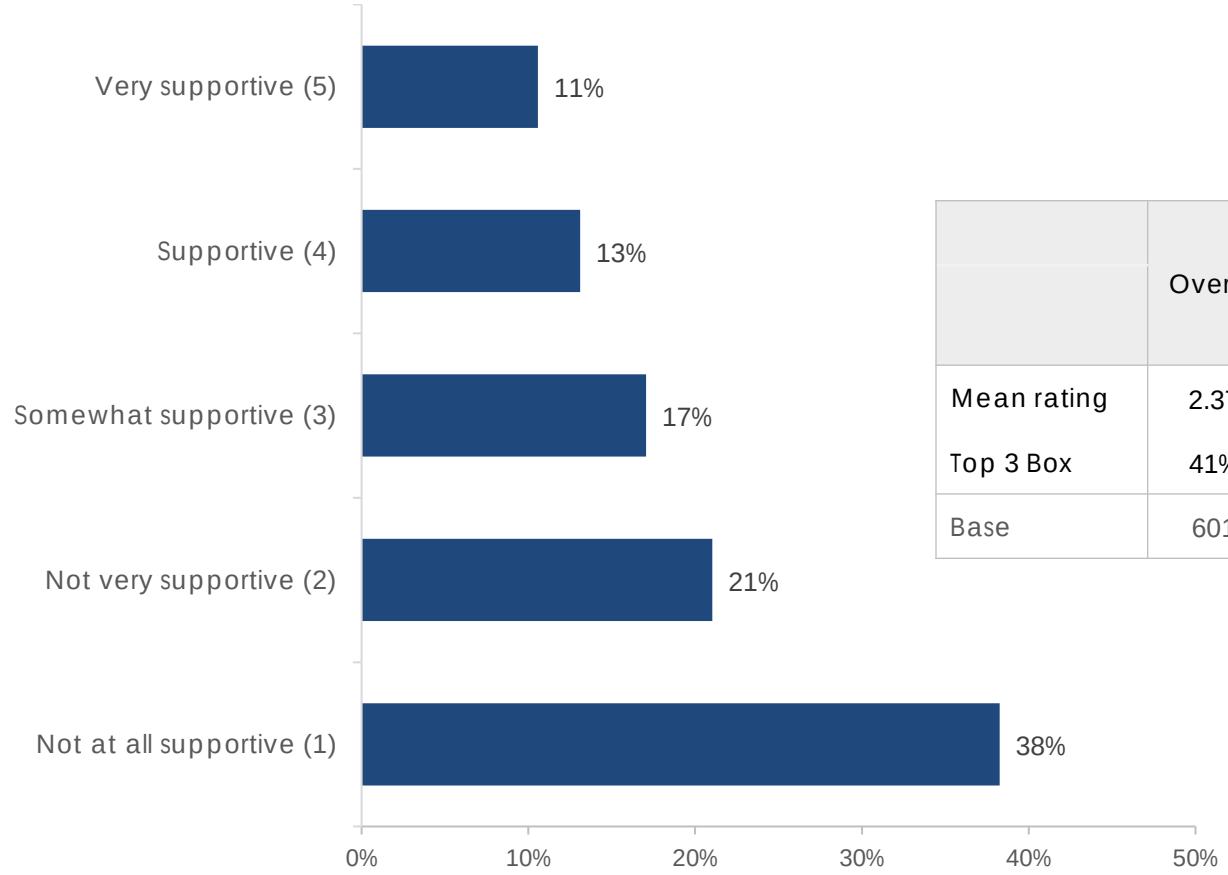
Scale: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = very supportive
▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of support

Residents aged 65+ were significantly less supportive of this option.

Support for 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.

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



	Overall	Support for de-amalgamation	
		Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Remain as Inner West Council
Mean rating	2.37	2.51	2.25
Top 3 Box	41%	43%	39%
Base	601	282	315

Base: N = 601

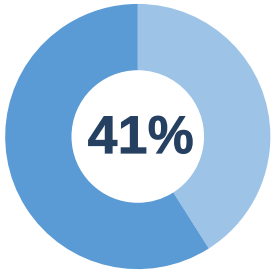
Scale: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = very supportive
▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of support

41% residents are at least somewhat supportive of Option C, where Council de-amalgamate and reduce to below pre-amalgamation Council service levels (so that there is no additional cost increase for households).

Support for 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.

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



Of Inner West residents are at least 'somewhat supportive' of Option C (De-amalgamate and reduce to below pre-amalgamation Council service levels).

	Overall	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	CALD Background (Yes)	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Mean rating	2.37	2.79▲	2.27	2.05▼	2.11▼	2.56	2.30	2.51
Top 3 Box	41%	55%▲	36%	32%▼	32%▼	50%	38%	46%
Base	601	196	175	128	102	176	421	179

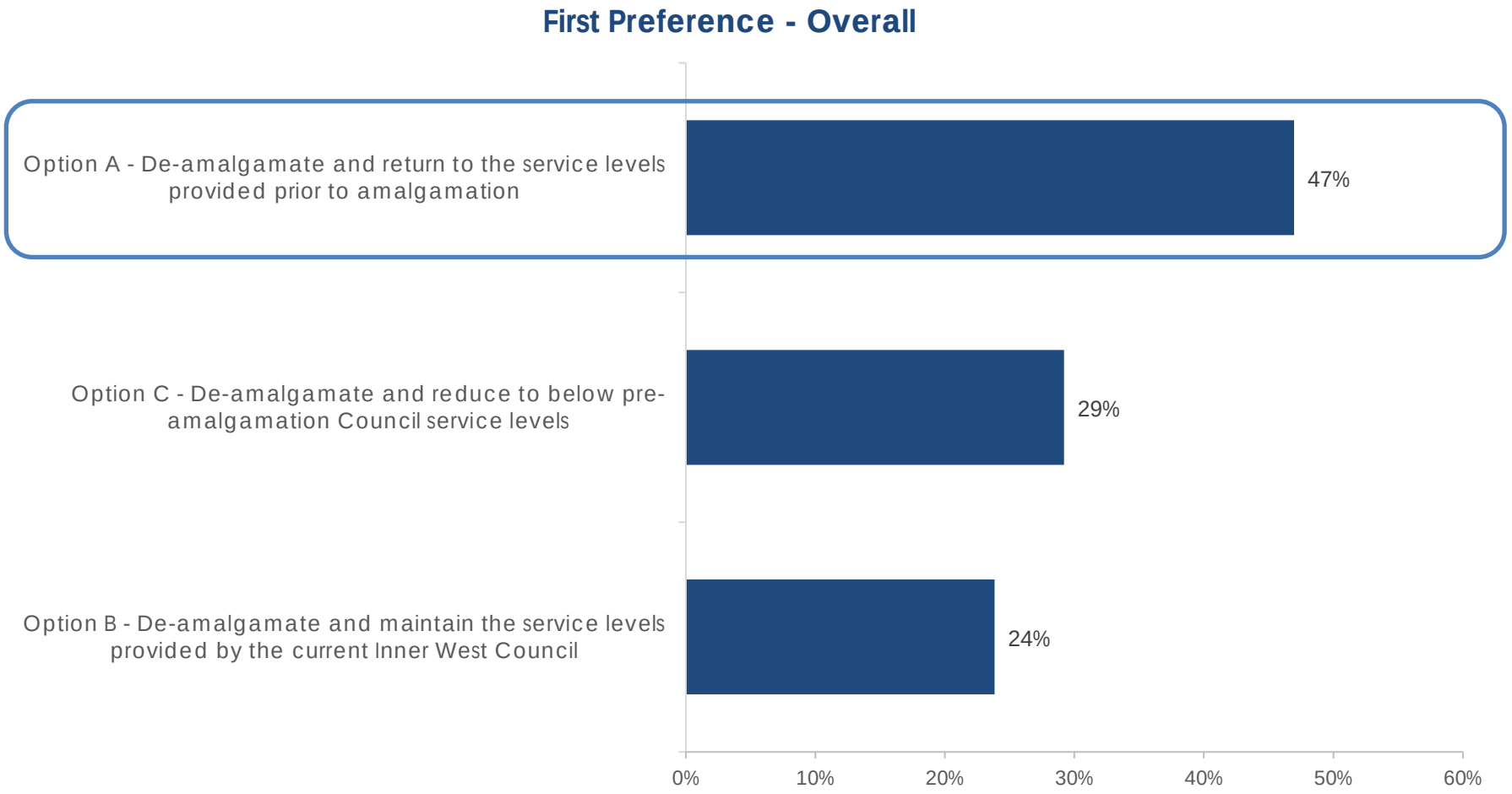
	Previous LGA			Time lived in the LGA		
	Marrickville Council	Leichhardt Council	Ashfield Council	<5 years	6 – 10 years	10+ years
Mean rating	2.35	2.33	2.44	2.47	2.22	2.39
Top 3 Box	38%	41%	45%	43%	36%	42%
Base	273	182	145	69	117	415

Scale: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = very supportive
▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of support

Residents aged 18-34 and non-ratepayers were significantly more supportive of this option.

Preferred De-amalgamation Option

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



Base: N = 598

If there were to be a de-amalgamation, residents were asked to rank their preference of the 3 options. Option A, de-amalgamate and return to the service levels provided prior to amalgamation' was the first preference for 47% of residents.

Preferred De-amalgamation Option

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

First preference %	Overall	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	CALD Background (Yes)	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Option A – Return to service levels*	47%▲	40%	50%	52%	48%	45%	49%	42%
Option C - Reduce service levels*	29%	41%▲	21%▼	23%	28%	32%	27%	35%
Option B - Maintain the service levels*	24%▼	18%	29%	25%	24%	23%	24%	24%
Base	598	196	175	125	101	176	418	179

First preference %	Previous LGA			Time lived in the LGA			Support for de-amalgamation	
	Marrickville Council	Leichhardt Council	Ashfield Council	<5 years	6 – 10 years	10+ years	Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Remain as Inner West Council
Option A – Return to service levels*	49%	49%	41%	50%	40%	48%	64%▲	31%
Option C - Reduce service levels*	30%	26%	31%	32%	30%	28%	19%▼	39%
Option B - Maintain the service levels*	21%	25%	28%	18%	30%	23%	17%▼	30%
Base	272	181	145	69	117	412	280	314

*Please see the previous slide for the complete description

▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by group)

Residents aged 18-34 were more supportive of Option C (de-amalgamate and reduce to below pre-amalgamation Council service levels) as a first preference.

Overall Preference

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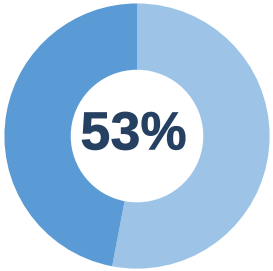
Preference for De-amalgamation or Remain Inner West Council

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?



Of residents prefer for Council to **remain as Inner West Council**

	Overall	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	CALD Background (Yes)	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Remain as Inner West Council	53%	54%	51%	56%	49%	54%	51%	56%
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	47%	46%	49%	44%	51%	46%	49%	44%
Base	597	193	175	128	102	176	421	175

	Previous LGA			Time lived in the LGA		
	Marrickville Council	Leichhardt Council	Ashfield Council	<5 years	6 – 10 years	10+ years
Remain as Inner West Council	54%	44%▼	62%▲	59%	53%	52%
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	46%	56%	38%	41%	47%	48%
Base	271	181	145	69	117	411

▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by group)

Given all information and provision of de-amalgamation options, residents were asked for their preference overall.

53% of residents prefer for Council to remain Inner West Council, with residents from the previous Ashfield Council area most supportive of this option.

Preference for De-amalgamation or Remain Inner West Council

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?

Q8b. Why do you say that?

Submit a business case for de-amalgamation	Base N=280
Smaller/individual council areas are better/provide improved management/better services/facilities	29%
The amalgamated Council has not provided any improvement in service delivery/facilities/services have declined	22%
Cost implications/considerations/financial impact	18%
The three areas are very diverse and have different local priorities, e.g. culturally, geographically etc	15%
Efficiency of service delivery/management	8%
Inner West is too much of a large area/large population for one Council	6%
The business case should be submitted for review and informed decisions made	6%
Communication/engagement/transparency with the community	5%

Verbatim Comments

"Inner West is too large of a council for such a diverse community"

"Since amalgamation Council services have been deteriorating"

"Smaller Council runs better and will satisfy local needs more"

"The Council that we had before amalgamation was much more effective, efficient"

"We were promised rate decreases and better services and in actual fact it's been the opposite"

"More representatives in the local community, representing the local community"

"Blanket approach neglects certain aspects of the local areas"

*Please see Appendix A for comments <5%

Key reasons for preferring Council submit a business case supporting de-amalgamation centre on a sentiment that smaller/individual council areas provide better management/services, as well as the feeling that the current service delivery has declined.

Preference for De-amalgamation or Remain Inner West Council

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?

Q8b. Why do you say that?

Remain as Inner West Council	Base N=315
Cost implications/considerations/financial impact	51%
Efficiency of service delivery/management	22%
I don't think de-amalgamation will benefit the community/no cause for de-amalgamation	20%
The amalgamated Council is better managed/provides improved services in the area	19%
Inner West Council is doing a good job/I like the area amalgamated	15%
Communication/engagement/transparency with the community	4%
The amalgamated Council provides a stronger, more independent voice, particularly when lobbying the State Government	4%

Verbatim Comments

"Council shouldn't waste money on de-amalgamation"

"I don't see a good case for de-amalgamation"

"Really appreciate the connections and engagement with our current council"

"Happy with how the Council works with the services provided"

"Since amalgamation the Council has been performing more efficiently"

De-amalgamating would mean going completely backwards and creating huge cost increases"

"De-amalgamation increases rates/costs for residents"

*Please see Appendix A for comments <4%

For those supportive of Council remaining amalgamated, key reasons centre on cost implications/financial considerations as well as the efficiency of the current service delivery/management provided by Inner West Council.

Appendix A: Additional Analyses

Key Priorities for Council in the Local Area (Unprompted)

Q2. What do you think are the key priorities for Council in the local area?

Additional priority areas	Base N=601
Supporting local business	5%
Community events/areas/facilities	4%
Housing affordability/availability	4%
Improvement/access to services and facilities	4%
Maintaining the character/heritage/culture of the area	4%
Support/access/consideration for vulnerable persons e.g., elderly, disabled, homeless, mental health	4%
Providing adequate infrastructure to cater for the growing population	3%
Tree management	3%
De-amalgamation/Issues regarding de-amalgamation	2%
Flooding/natural disaster management	2%
Improve public amenities	2%
Improved animal management/animal services/facilities	2%
Recycling promotion/education/options	2%
Revitalising areas	2%
Affordable/more childcare	1%
Creating/maintaining a sense of community	1%
Dealing with illegally dumped rubbish	1%
Keeping rates affordable	1%
Lack of education/schooling	1%
Managing overpopulation	1%
More support of arts and culture	1%
More/improved libraries	1%
More/improved shopping facilities/retail/cafes	1%
Noise pollution/plane distruption	1%
Supporting hospitals/medical	1%
Youth programs/facilities	1%

Key Priorities for Council in the Local Area (Unprompted)

Q2. What do you think are the key priorities for Council in the local area?

Additional priority areas	Base N=601
Cost of living	<1%
Focus on local issues	<1%
Greater access to White Bay Waterfront	<1%
Reconciliation	<1%
Regardless of whether amalgamated or not, to share facilities throughout the Inner West area	<1%
Save the Balmain Leagues Club	<1%
Support electronic vehicles	<1%
Support for the LGBTQI community	<1%
The old RSL club needs to be addressed as it is an eyesore	<1%
Zone considerations	<1%
Don't know/nothing	10%

Priorities for Council to Focus on In the Local Area

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...

	Overall	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	CALD Background (Yes)	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Maintaining and provision of green open spaces	4.59	4.60	4.62	4.56	4.53	4.54	4.53	4.71▲
Environmental protection	4.47	4.49	4.48	4.44	4.46	4.43	4.39	4.64▲
Availability and access to public transport	4.40	4.54	4.31	4.29	4.44	4.45	4.32	4.61▲
Council efficiency/good leadership and communication	4.35	4.36	4.35	4.36	4.31	4.41	4.32	4.41▲
Improving road infrastructure/ maintenance of roads	4.28	4.20	4.39	4.25	4.29	4.40	4.28	4.27
Maintaining the character/ heritage/culture of the area	4.25	4.15	4.33	4.13	4.44▲	4.19	4.26	4.22
Managing planning and development	4.23	3.97▼	4.29	4.41	4.43▲	4.41	4.33▲	4.01
Climate change	4.20	4.33	4.14	4.15	4.15	4.11	4.14	4.36
Traffic management/congestion	4.17	4.11	4.21	4.19	4.17	4.30	4.23	4.02
Access to parking facilities	3.72	3.48▼	3.84	3.81	3.86	3.91	3.76	3.62
De-amalgamation of Inner West Council back into the previous Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils	3.02	2.82	2.99	3.13	3.29▲	3.13	3.00	3.05

Scale: 1 = not at all important, 5 = very important
▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of importance

Priorities for Council to Focus on In the Local Area

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...

	Previous LGA			Time lived in the LGA			Support for de-amalgamation	
	Marrickville Council	Leichhardt Council	Ashfield Council	<5 years	6 – 10 years	10+ years	Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Remain as Inner West Council
Maintaining and provision of green open spaces	4.58	4.59	4.60	4.67	4.60	4.57	4.65	4.54
Environmental protection	4.45	4.44	4.53	4.72▲	4.40	4.44	4.53	4.41
Availability and access to public transport	4.43	4.31	4.47	4.72▲	4.43	4.34▼	4.39	4.41
Council efficiency/good leadership and communication	4.31	4.35	4.41	4.40	4.29	4.35	4.43	4.28
Improving road infrastructure/ maintenance of roads	4.24	4.27	4.36	4.38	4.27	4.26	4.25	4.31
Maintaining the character/ heritage/culture of the area	4.26	4.30	4.16	4.20	4.12	4.29	4.31	4.20
Managing planning and development	4.22	4.22	4.27	4.29	4.01	4.29	4.21	4.26
Climate change	4.23	4.16	4.20	4.40	4.13	4.19	4.28	4.13
Traffic management/ congestion	4.18	4.19	4.13	4.16	4.04	4.21	4.30▲	4.06
Access to parking facilities	3.72	3.76	3.65	3.67	3.54	3.77	3.80	3.65
De-amalgamation of Inner West Council back into the previous Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils	3.06	3.06	2.88	2.87	2.82	3.10	3.97▲	2.16

Scale: 1 = not at all important, 5 = very important
▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of importance

Preference for De-amalgamation or Remain Inner West Council

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?

Q8b. Why do you say that?

Submit a business case for de-amalgamation (Additional comments)	Base N=280
Amalgamation has removed governance/decision making from the community, a more localised response is needed	4%
The community want de-amalgamation/Supportive of de-amalgamation	4%
Amalgamating the councils was not in the best interests of the community initially	3%
The previous Councils provided a better sense of community/local identity	3%
Three separate councils are better for preserving the heritage/character of the different areas	3%
It is better for service levels to remain as they are with no increase in rates	2%
Would prefer to pay more to increase service levels	1%
Other	8%
Don't know/unsure	7%

Preference for De-amalgamation or Remain Inner West Council

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?

Q8b. Why do you say that?

Remain as Inner West Council (Additional comments)	Base N=315
De-amalgamation is not viable/More changes to Council are not productive	3%
It is better for service levels to remain as they are with no increase in rates	3%
Not supportive of de-amalgamation	2%
The amalgamation has provided a good identity for the community/people identify as a part of the Inner West community	2%
Council performance could be improved without de-amalgamation	1%
None of the options are particularly good for the community	1%
There are too many levels of government/over governed	1%
Inner West Council is more supportive of planning/development	<1%
The amalgamated Council is focused on larger issues (e.g. climate change, recycling, sustainability) rather than localised issues	<1%
Other	8%
Don't know/unsure	3%

Appendix B:
Further Demographics & Background & Methodology

INNER WEST

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Additional Demographics

Q1. In which suburb do you live?

	Base N=601
Marrickville	14%
Ashfield	10%
Balmain	8%
Leichhardt	7%
Newtown	6%
Annandale	5%
Dulwich Hill	5%
Petersham	5%
Haberfield	4%
Rozelle	4%
St Peters	4%
Stanmore	4%
Croydon	3%
Lilyfield	3%
Summer Hill	3%
Camperdown	2%
Croydon Park	2%
Enmore	2%
Lewisham	2%
Tempe	2%
Birchgrove	1%
Hurlstone Park	1%
Sydenham	1%
Ashbury	<1%
Balmain East	<1%

Background & Methodology

Sample selection and error

A total of 601 resident interviews were completed. Respondents were selected by means of a computer based random selection process using Sample Pages and Australian Marketing Lists.

A sample size of 601 residents provides a maximum sampling error of plus or minus 4.0% at 95% confidence. This means that if the survey was replicated with a new universe of N=601 residents, 19 times out of 20 we would expect to see the same results, i.e. +/- 4.0%.

For the survey under discussion the greatest margin of error is 4.0%. This means, for example, that an answer such as 'yes' (50%) to a question could vary from 46% to 54%.

The sample was weighted by age and gender to reflect the 2021 ABS Census data for Inner West Council. The sample was also weighted to reflect the population distribution of Marrickville Council, Leichhardt Council and Ashfield Council. As the amalgamation of the Council's took place prior to the 2016 Census, the data presented reflects the population distribution from the 2011 ABS Census Data.

Interviewing

Interviewing was conducted in accordance with The Research Society Code of Professional Behaviour.

Prequalification

Participants in this survey were pre-qualified as being over the age of 18, and not working for, nor having an immediate family member working for Inner West Council.

Data analysis

The data within this report was analysed using Q Professional.

Within the report, ▲▼ are used to identify statistically significant differences between groups, i.e., age, ratepayer status, length of time lived in the LGA, etc.

Significance difference testing is a statistical test performed to evaluate the difference between two measurements. To identify the statistically significant differences between the groups of means, 'One-Way Anova tests' and 'Independent Samples T-tests' were used. 'Z Tests' were also used to determine statistically significant differences between column percentages.

Percentages

All percentages are calculated to the nearest whole number and therefore the total may not exactly equal 100%.

Appendix C: Questionnaire

Inner West Council
Community Survey – De-amalgamation
2022

Good morning/afternoon/evening, my name is ..... from Micromex Research and we are conducting a survey on behalf of Inner West Council on a range of local issues. The survey will take about 10-15 minutes, would you be able to assist us please?

Q. **Interviewer to record sample:**
Note: On completion of n=600 we will review achieved and assess whether we need to boost any of the previous entities sample size

- ○ Regular N=600
- ○ Ashfield boost
- ○ Leichhardt boost
- ○ Marrickville boost

QA. **Please stop me when I read out your age bracket: *Prompt***

- ○ Under 18 **(Terminate survey)**
- ○ 18-34
- ○ 35-49
- ○ 50-64
- ○ 65+

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

- ○ Under 6 months
- ○ 6 months – 2 years
- ○ 3 – 5 years
- ○ 6 – 10 years
- ○ 11 – 20 years
- ○ More than 20 years

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

Ashfield Council
- ○ Ashbury
- ○ Ashfield
- ○ Croydon
- ○ Croydon Park
- ○ Haberfield
- ○ Hurlstone Park
- ○ Summer Hill

Leichhardt Council
- ○ Annandale
- ○ Balmain
- ○ Balmain East
- ○ Birchgrove
- ○ Leichhardt
- ○ Lilyfield
- ○ Rozelle

Marrickville Council
- ○ Camperdown
- ○ Dulwich Hill
- ○ Enmore
- ○ Lewisham
- ○ Marrickville
- ○ Newtown
- ○ Petersham
- ○ St Peters
- ○ Stanmore
- ○ Sydenham
- ○ Tempe

Q2. **What do you think are the key priorities for Council in the local area?**

.....

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? *Prompt***

- ○ 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.... RANDOMISE**

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

INTRODUCE Concept Statement – Introduce Background to Amalgamation and Amalgamation.

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. **Can I ask what you voted for in 2021? Prompt (SR)**

- ○ Yes - Support de-amalgamation
- ○ No – Do not support de-amalgamation
- ○ **(Do NOT Prompt)** Can't recall/Prefer not to say
- ○ **(Do NOT Prompt)** Refuse to answer
- ○ **(Do NOT Prompt)** Was not a resident of IWC

Q5b. **(Only if Yes or No on Q5a) Why did you vote that way?**

READ OUT

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.

Option A/B/C (SEQUENTIAL MONADIC/ORDER A-B-C or C-B-A)
COST BREAK BY PREVIOUS LGA

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q7. If Inner West Council were to de-amalgamate, please rank the 3 options in order of preference:
Interviewer note: If a participant indicates that they absolutely don't want to de-amalgamate' Please say "I will ask you about that in the next question, but if there was going to be a de-amalgamation, how would you rank the options?".

	1st preference	2nd preference	3rd preference
Option A – De-amalgamate and return to the service levels provided prior to amalgamation	O	O	O
Option B – De-amalgamate and maintain the service levels provided by the current Inner West Council	O	O	O
Option C – De-amalgamate and reduce to below pre-amalgamation Council service levels	O	O	O

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

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

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

.....

Q9a. **Prior to this call, were you aware that Council was exploring community sentiment towards a de-amalgamation?**

- ○ Yes
- ○ No **(Go to Q10)**
- ○ Not sure **(Go to Q10)**

Q9b. **How did you first become aware of the de-amalgamation?** ***Prompt***

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

Q10. **(Online only), Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? Reporting note: Micromex will not be analysing results of this question but Council will include the raw results in their outcomes report.**

.....

Demographics

The following information is used for demographic purposes only.

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

- ○ 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?** ***Prompt, MR***

- ○ 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:**

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

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

- ○ 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.

The information contained herein is believed to be reliable and accurate, however, no guarantee is given as to its accuracy and reliability, and no responsibility or liability for any information, opinions or commentary contained herein, or for any consequences of its use, will be accepted by Micromex Research, or by any person involved in the preparation of this report.

Telephone: (02) 4352 2388
Web: www.micromex.com.au
Email: stu@micromex.com.au

Appendix I Micromex community survey report – online versus telephone

Inner West Council

Community Survey – De-amalgamation

Online v Phone Comparison

Prepared by: Micromex Research

Date: August 2022

INNER WEST

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Community Survey

DE-AMALGAMATION

INNER WEST

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. This report summarises the results of the community survey conducted online via the Council's website and makes comparisons with the telephone survey conducted with N=601 residents. The survey sought feedback from the community regarding their support for the development of a business case to de-amalgamate.

Background and Methodology

Objectives:

- Explore community support for Council submitting a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation
- Identify the community's awareness of Council's exploration of community sentiment regarding de-amalgamation

Sample:

- Online survey with N = 1,441 respondents (comparisons are also made to the results from the phone survey with 601 residents)
- We use a 5 point scale (e.g. 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = very supportive)

Timing:

- Open online between 1st July – 3rd August 2022

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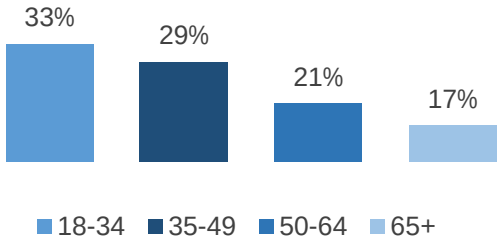
Sample Profile – Telephone Respondents

Phone

The sample was weighted by age and gender to reflect the 2021 ABS community profile of the Inner West LGA. The sample was also weighted by the previous LGA population distributions to reflect the 2011 ABS data.

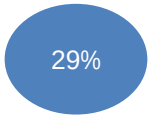
Age



Ratepayer status

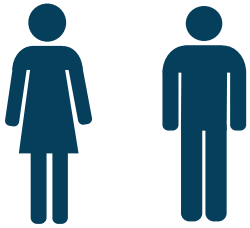
Ratepayer 70%

Non-ratepayer 30%



Identify as Culturally and Linguistically Diverse

Gender



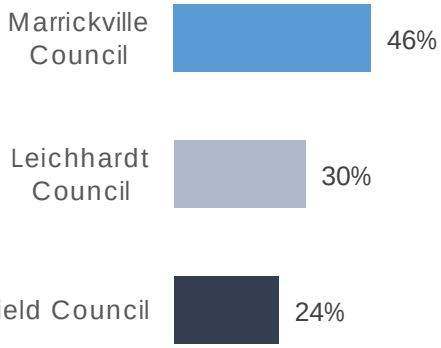
Female 52%

Male 48%

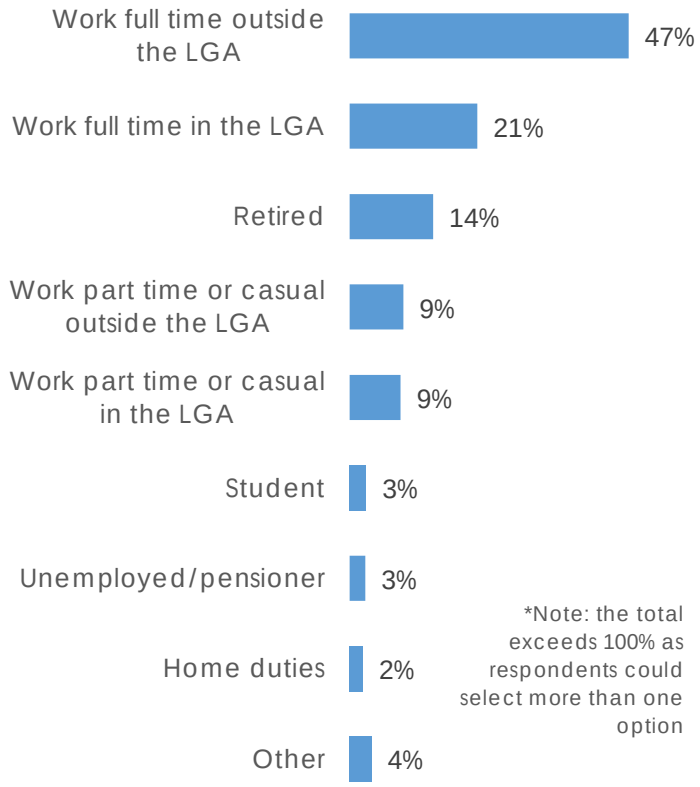
Non-binary <1%

Different identity <1%

Previous LGA

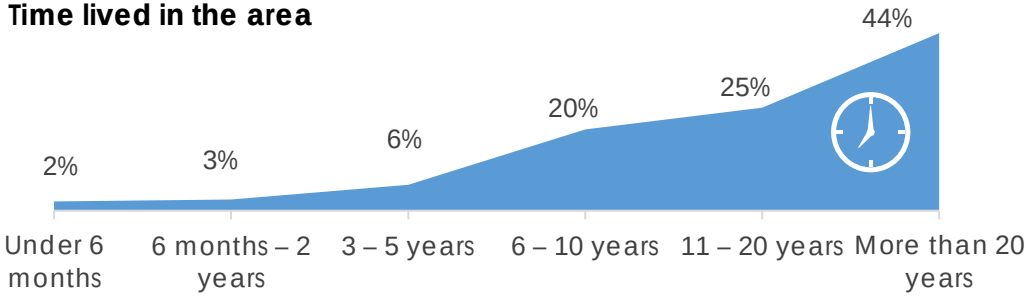


Employment status*



*Note: the total exceeds 100% as respondents could select more than one option

Time lived in the area



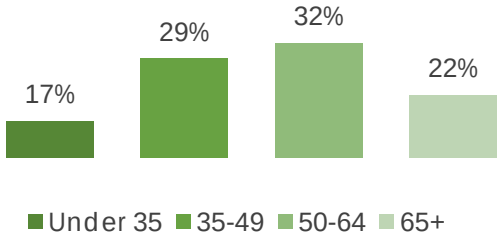
Base: N = 601

Sample Profile – Online Respondents

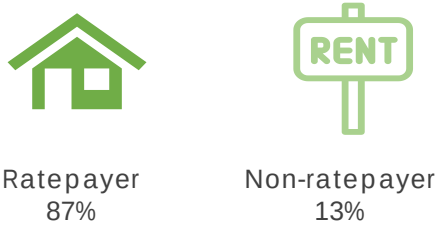
Online

The sample was not weighted.

Age



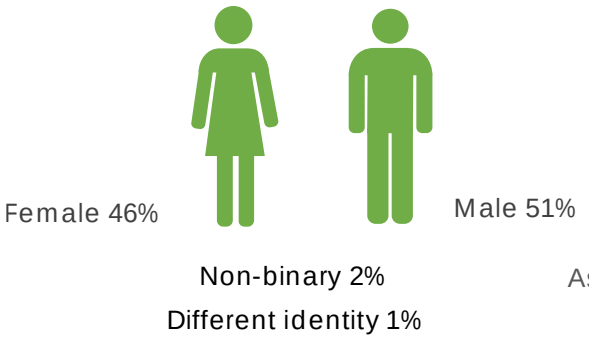
Ratepayer status



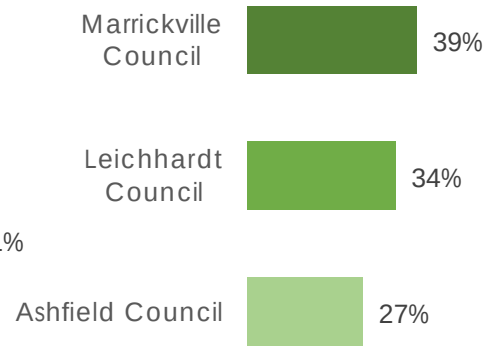
21%

Identify as Culturally and Linguistically Diverse

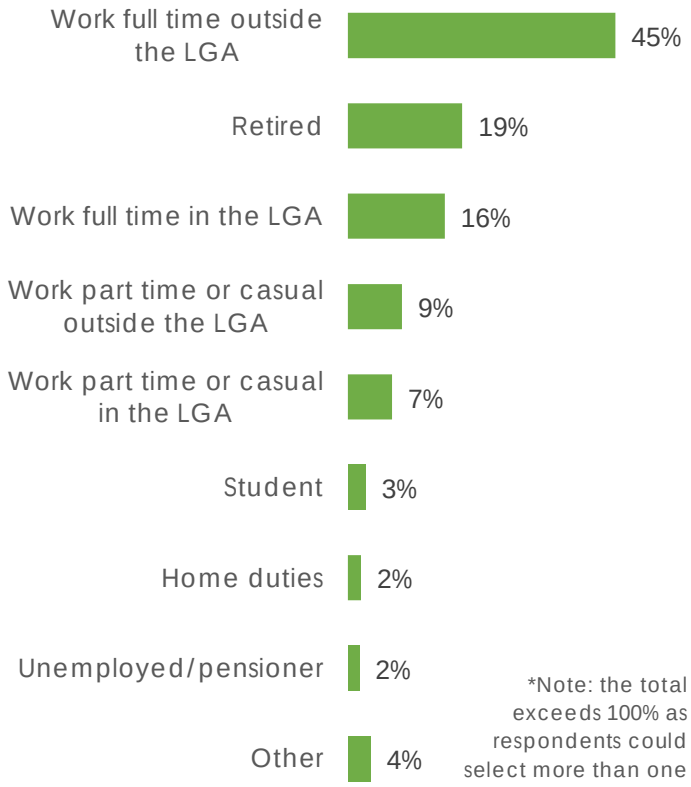
Gender



Previous LGA

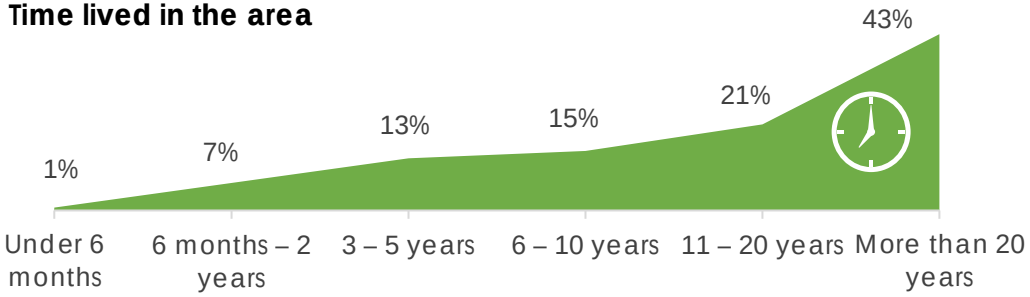


Employment status*



*Note: the total exceeds 100% as respondents could select more than one option

Time lived in the area



*Note: 1% of respondents live outside the Inner West LGA

Base: N = 1,441

Detailed Results

1. Performance of Council and Key Priority Areas

Detailed Results

1. Performance of Council and Key Priority Areas

2. 2021 Poll on De-amalgamation

3. Support for Council's Preparation of a Business Case Supporting a De-amalgamation

This section explores residents' overall satisfaction with Council and residents' key priorities for Council in the local area.

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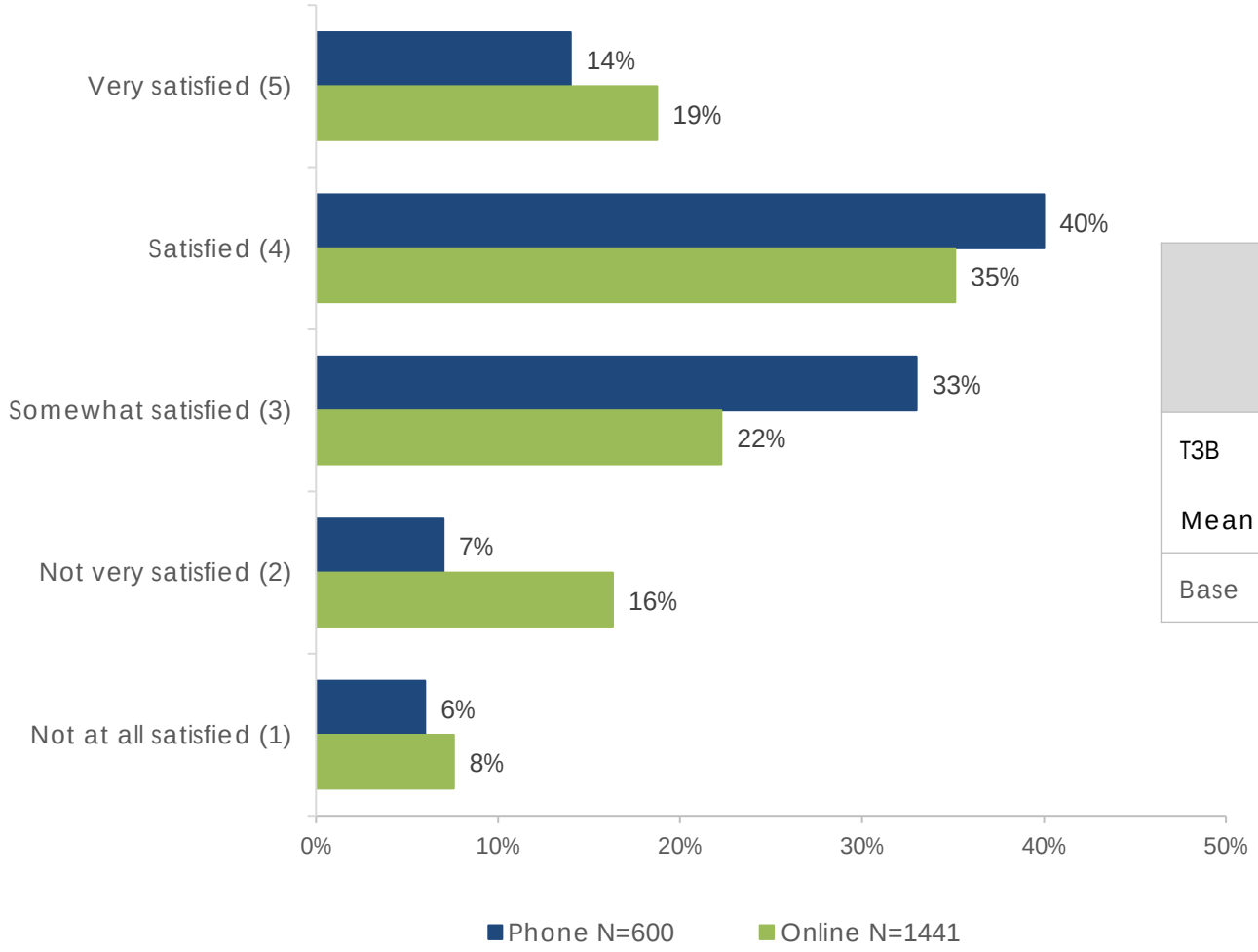
Overall Satisfaction with the Performance of Council

Phone Online

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?*



	Phone	Online
T3B	87%	76%
Mean rating	3.49	3.41
Base	600	1,441

Scale: 1 = not at all satisfied, 5 = very satisfied

76% of online respondents are at least 'somewhat satisfied' with the performance of Council over the past 12 months.

Respondents interviewed via phone had a higher % level of satisfaction with Council.

Overall Satisfaction with the Performance of Council

Online

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?*

	Overall	Under 35	35-49	50-64	65+	CALD Background (Yes)	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Mean rating	3.41	3.73▲	3.54▲	3.34	3.08▼	3.32	3.38	3.64▲
Top 3 Box	76%	87%▲	82%▲	74%	62%▼	74%	75%	84%▲
Base	1,441	246	424	461	310	298	1,259	182

	Previous LGA			Time lived in the LGA				Support for de-amalgamation	
	Ashfield Council	Leichhardt Council	Marrickville Council	<5 years	6 – 10 years	10+ years	I live outside the Inner West	Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Remain as Inner West Council
Mean rating	3.83▲	3.15▼	3.37	3.80▲	3.59▲	3.26▼	2.56▼	2.25	3.92▲
Top 3 Box	89%▲	68%▼	75%	89%▲	85%▲	70%▼	56%	35%	94%▲
Base	383	491	561	291	211	930	9	440	1001

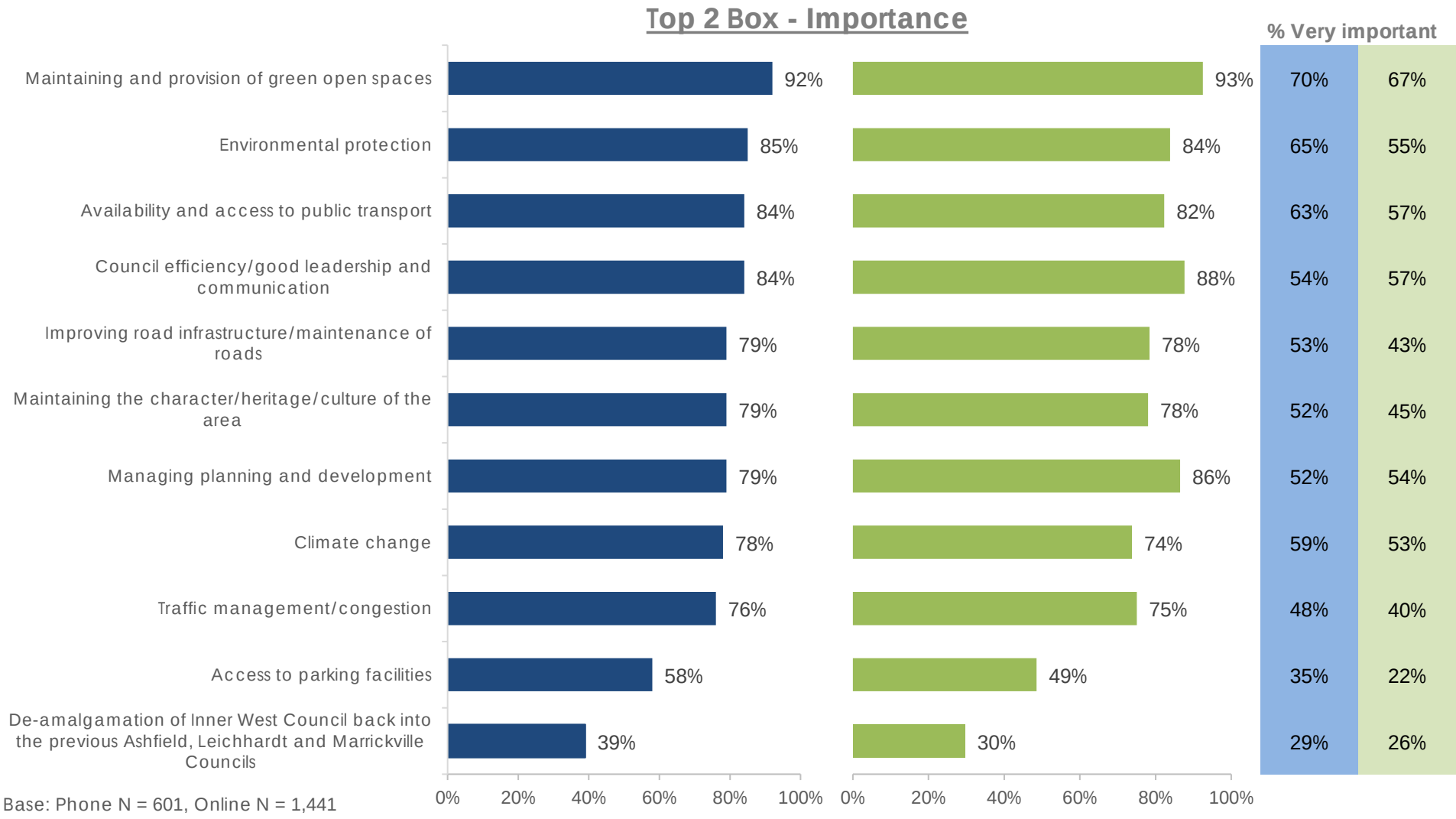
Scale: 1 = not at all satisfied, 5 = very satisfied
▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of satisfaction

For online respondents, satisfaction levels are highest amongst those aged under 49, non-ratepayers, those from the previous Ashfield LGA and those who have lived in the area for fewer than ten years.

Priorities for Council to Focus on in the Local Area

Phone Online

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...



Base: Phone N = 601, Online N = 1,441

As with the phone interviews, online respondents continue to prioritise many issues significantly more important than de-amalgamation.

Priorities for Council to Focus on In the Local Area

Online

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...

Top 2 Box % (Very important/Important)	Overall	Under 35	35-49	50-64	65+	CALD Background (Yes)	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Maintaining and provision of green open spaces	93%	89%▼	94%	94%	91%	90%▼	93%	91%
Council efficiency/good leadership and communication	88%	83%▼	82%▼	92%▲	94%▲	85%	88%	86%
Managing planning and development	86%	79%▼	87%	88%	90%	85%	88%▲	79%
Environmental protection	84%	78%▼	82%	87%	86%	79%▼	84%	85%
Availability and access to public transport	82%	81%	83%	81%	84%	82%	82%	85%
Improving road infrastructure/maintenance of roads	78%	71%▼	79%	80%	82%	79%	79%▲	73%
Maintaining the character/heritage/culture of the area	78%	64%▼	76%	81%▲	86%▲	72%▼	79%▲	72%
Traffic management/congestion	75%	65%▼	75%	80%▲	77%	75%	75%	73%
Climate change	74%	72%	72%	74%	77%	65%▼	74%	75%
Access to parking facilities	49%	37%▼	46%	54%▲	53%	53%	49%	48%
De-amalgamation of Inner West Council back into the previous Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils	30%	17%▼	19%	32%	52%▲	33%	32%▲	17%

▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of importance

Online respondents aged under 35 placed a significantly lower level of importance on all but two of the prompted priority areas.

Ratepayers and respondents over 65 consider the de-amalgamation of IWC significantly more important, whilst those aged under 35 consider the de-amalgamation significantly less important.

Priorities for Council to Focus on In the Local Area

Online

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...

Top 2 Box % (Very important/Important)	Previous LGA			Time lived in the LGA				Support for de-amalgamation	
	Ashfield Council	Leichhardt Council	Marrickville Council	<5 years	6 – 10 years	10+ years	I live outside the Inner West	Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Remain as Inner West Council
Maintaining and provision of green open spaces	93%	93%	91%	92%	93%	93%	100%	91%	93%
Council efficiency/good leadership and communication	86%	90%▲	86%	81%▼	84%	91%▲	89%	90%	87%
Managing planning and development	90%▲	86%	85%	80%▼	84%	89%▲	67%	83%	88%▲
Environmental protection	84%	85%	83%	78%▼	83%	86%▲	89%	84%	84%
Availability and access to public transport	83%	84%	80%	84%	83%	82%	78%	80%	83%
Improving road infrastructure/ maintenance of roads	81%	79%	76%	71%▼	80%	81%▲	78%	77%	79%
Maintaining the character/ heritage/culture of the area	76%	80%	77%	69%▼	70%▼	82%▲	89%	85%▲	75%
Traffic management/congestion	75%	75%	75%	66%▼	76%	78%▲	78%	75%	75%
Climate change	73%	74%	73%	76%	71%	74%	78%	74%	74%
Access to parking facilities	45%	54%▲	46%	42%▼	45%	52%▲	33%	53%▲	47%
De-amalgamation of Inner West Council back into the previous Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils	13%▼	40%▲	32%	13%▼	21%▼	37%▲	44%	93%▲	2%

▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of importance

For the most part the level of importance placed on priority areas increases by time lived in area. Those in support of the de-amalgamation also rated in significantly more important.

2. 2021 Poll on De-amalgamation

Detailed Results

1. Performance of Council and Key Priority Areas

2. 2021 Poll on De-amalgamation

3. Support for Council's Preparation of a Business Case Supporting a De-amalgamation

This section explores residents' awareness of Council's exploration of community sentiment to de-amalgamation.

INNER WEST

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Background

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

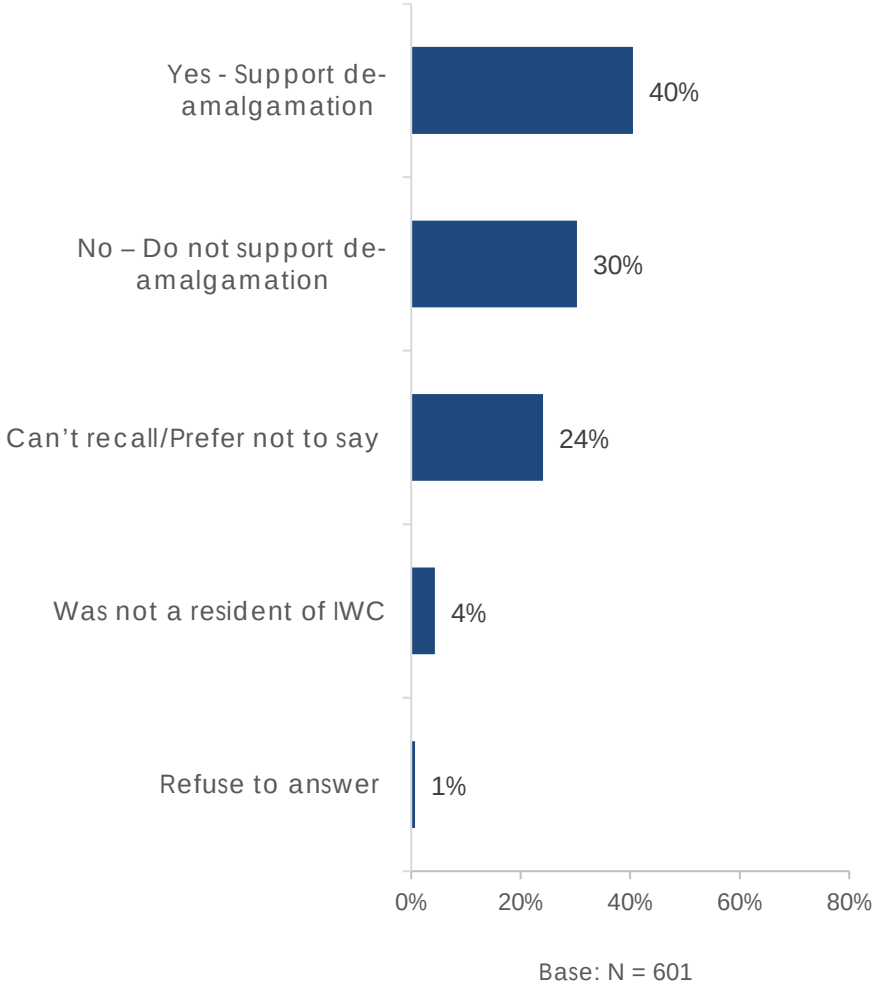
Inner West Council voted to conduct a poll on de-amalgamation at the election on 4 December. A non-binding poll was held regarding the potential de-amalgamation of Inner West Council and the results were that 62.49% of voters asked for a de-amalgamation.

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

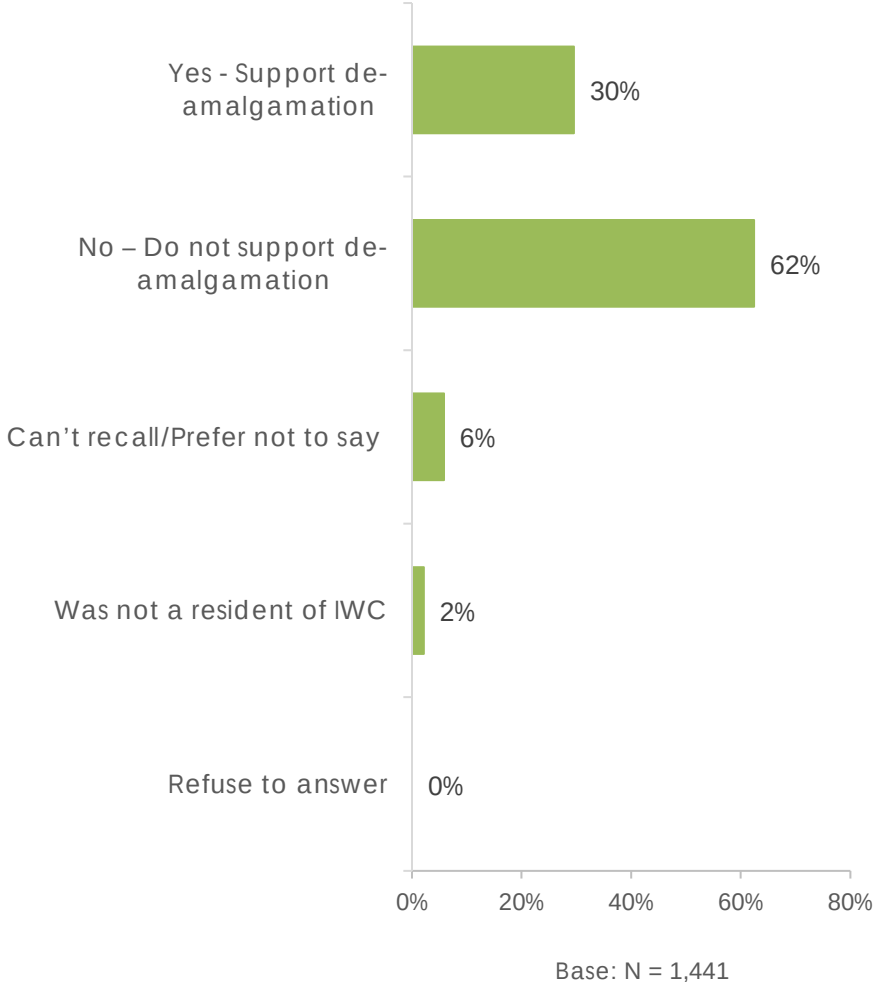
2021 Poll on De-amalgamation

Phone Online

Q5a. Can I ask what you voted for in 2021?



Base: N = 601



Base: N = 1,441

30% of online respondents indicated that they voted to support de-amalgamation during the 2021 poll.

Online respondents were <u>less likely</u> to have voted to support the de-amalgamation at the poll.

2021 Poll on De-amalgamation

Online

Q5a. Can I ask what you voted for in 2021?

	Overall	Under 35	35-49	50-64	65+	CALD Background (Yes)	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	30%	16%▼	19%▼	31%	52%▲	28%	31%▲	18%
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	62%	70%▲	72%▲	62%	44%▼	60%	61%▼	71%
Can't recall/Prefer not to say	6%	9%▲	7%	5%	2%▼	10%	6%	7%
Was not a resident of IWC	2%	6%▲	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%	3%
Base	1441	246	424	461	310	298	1259	182

	Previous LGA			Time lived in the LGA				Support for de-amalgamation	
	Ashfield Council	Leichhardt Council	Marrickville Council	<5 years	6 – 10 years	10+ years	I live outside the Inner West	Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Remain as Inner West Council
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	11%▼	44%▲	30%	14%▼	18%▼	37%▲	22%	88%▲	4%
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	80%▲	51%▼	61%	69%▲	71%▲	59%▼	33%	4%▼	88%
Can't recall/Prefer not to say	7%	4%▼	7%	8%	10%▲	4%▼	0%	8%▲	5%
Was not a resident of IWC	2%	2%	2%	9%▲	1%	0%	44%▲	1%	3%▲
Base	383	491	561	291	211	930	9	440	1001

▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by group)

For online respondents, those aged under 49, those from the former Ashfield LGA and those who have lived in the area fewer than 10 years were significantly less likely to have voted in support of the de-amalgamation in the 2021 poll.

2021 Poll on De-amalgamation – Reasons for Support

Online

Q5a. Can I ask what you voted for in 2021?

Q5b. (Only if Yes or No on Q5a) Why did you vote that way?

Reasons for supporting de-amalgamation	Base N=425
The amalgamated Council has not provided any improvement in service delivery/facilities/services have declined	37%
Amalgamation has removed governance/decision making from the community, a more localised response is needed	33%
The smaller/individual council areas were easier to manage/provided better services/facilities	21%
Cost implications/considerations/financial impact	18%
Communication/engagement/transparency with the community/limited information available	14%
Amalgamating the councils was not in the best interests of the community initially	13%
The three areas are very diverse and have different local priorities, e.g. culturally, geographically etc	12%
Inner West is too much of a large area/large population for one Council	11%
Efficiency of service delivery/management	11%
The amalgamated Council is focused on larger issues (e.g. climate change, recycling, sustainability) rather than localised issues	5%
Council resources would be better spent on improving current services/facilities	4%
Supportive of de-amalgamation/the community wants de-amalgamation	4%
The amalgamation/de-amalgamation is politically motivated	3%

Please see Appendix A for responses <3%

Verbatim Comments

"The amalgamation has not improved services - it has made them worse. The current mega-Council is not able to respond adequately to residents concerns."

"Our area's needs are no longer adequately represented or attended to since the amalgamation"

"Basic services have decreased since amalgamation "

"The amalgamation has reduced residents' ability to participate in decision making."

"It was a better, more effective system previously. With more direct, grass roots community involvement. Action and results were relevant to local needs."

For respondents who supported de-amalgamation in the 2021 poll, their primary reasons centred on a perceived decline/lack of improvement in services/facilities in the area since the amalgamation as well as the sentiment that the amalgamation had removed governance/decision making from the community.

2021 Poll on De-amalgamation – Reasons for Against

Online

Q5a. Can I ask what you voted for in 2021?

Q5b. (Only if Yes or No on Q5a) Why did you vote that way?

Reasons for NOT supporting de-amalgamation	Base N=898
Cost implications/considerations/financial impact	60%
Efficiency of service delivery/management	25%
The amalgamated Council has better managed/provided improved services in the area	22%
I don't think de-amalgamation will benefit the community/no cause for de-amalgamation	19%
Inner West Council is doing a good job/Satisfied with the Council currently	16%
De-amalgamation is not viable/More changes to Council are not productive	14%
Council resources would be better spent on improving current services/facilities	10%
The amalgamated Council provides a stronger, more independent voice for residents	8%
The amalgamation has provided a good identity for the community/people identify as a part of the Inner West community	6%
Don't need any more councillors/duplicate services	5%
Communication/engagement/transparency with the community/limited information available	5%
The amalgamation/de-amalgamation is politically motivated	3%
Amalgamating the councils was not in the best interests of the community initially	3%
Inner West Council is more supportive of planning/development	3%
Other	5%

Please see Appendix A for responses <5%

Verbatim Comments

"Council provides better services as the Inner West Council, is more efficient and less parochial. The cost to de-amalgamate is too high and will cost ratepayers"

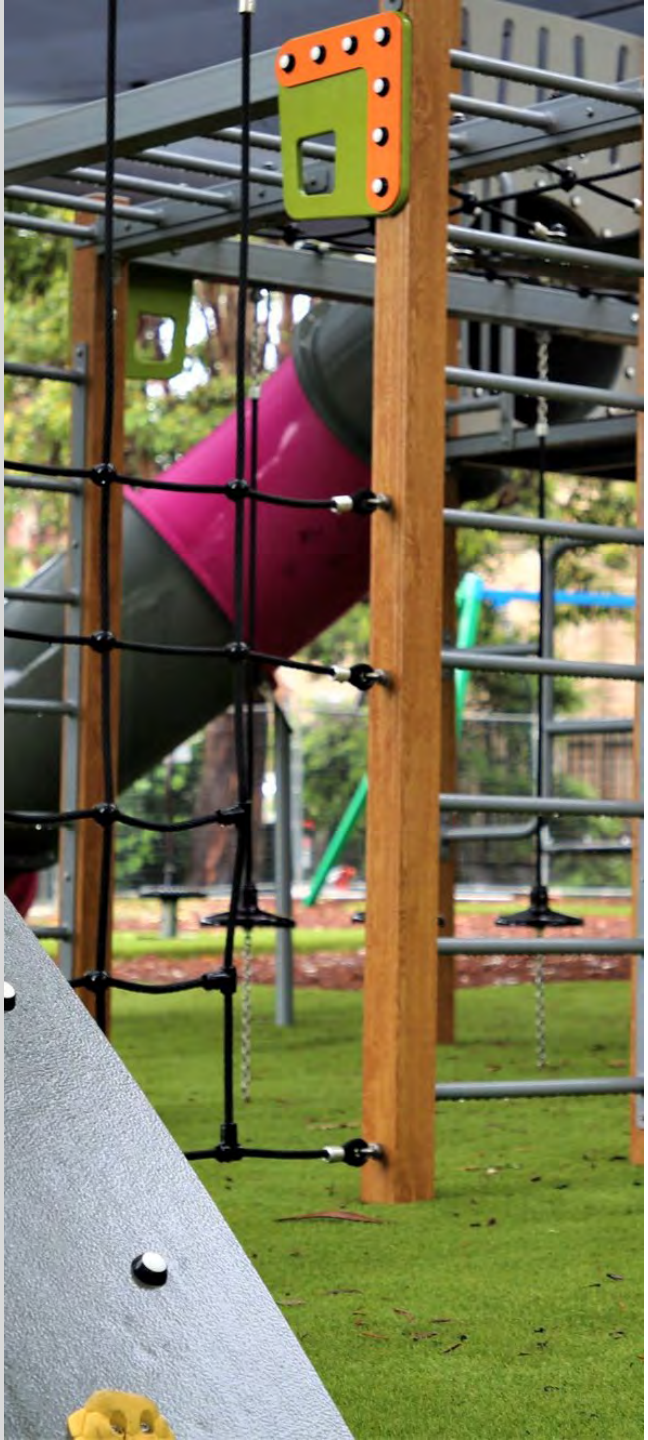
"I am very satisfied with the Inner West Council. Our family has access to a wider range of services e.g. multiple libraries and pools. I have not experienced a decline in any services"

"Larger council area is more sustainable and allows for optimisation of services"

"De-amalgamation will be costly and require a lot of time and effort that would be better spent on providing and improving services"

For online respondents, the primary reasons for not supporting the de-amalgamation included cost considerations/financial implications, as well as perceived improvements in services and efficiencies within the Inner West Council.

3. Support for Council's Preparation of a Business Case Supporting a De-amalgamation



Detailed Results

1. Performance of Council and Key Priority Areas

2. 2021 Poll on De-amalgamation

3. Support for Council's Preparation of a Business Case Supporting a De-amalgamation

This section explores residents' support for Council preparing a business case supporting de-amalgamation.

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Concept Statement

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.

Concept Statement (Cont'd)

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

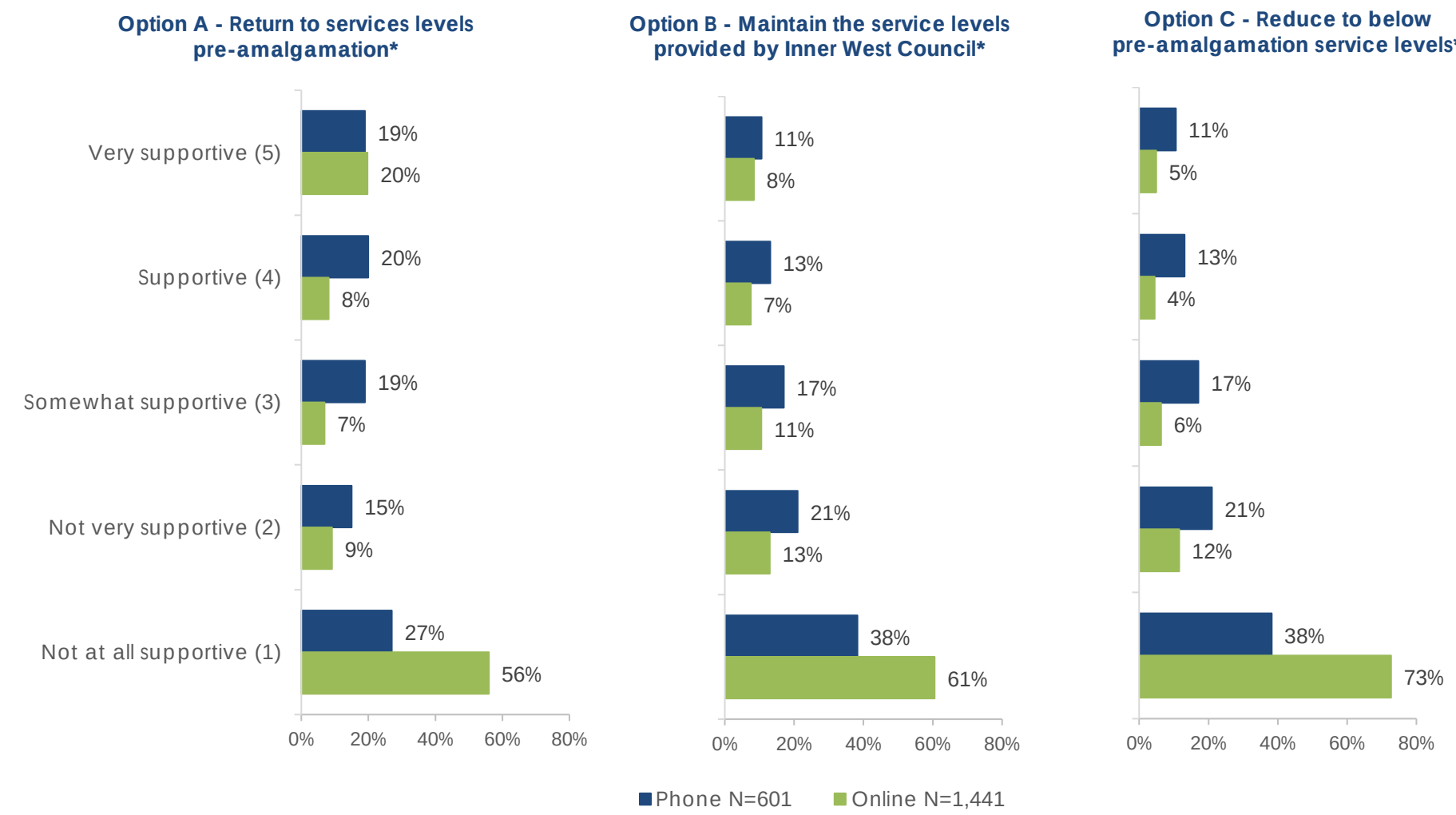
Option C De-amalgamate and reduce to below pre-amalgamation Council service levels

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.

Summary of Support for Options

Phone Online

Q6. How supportive, if at all, are you of Council proceeding with Option A/B/C?



*Please see the following slides for a complete description of options

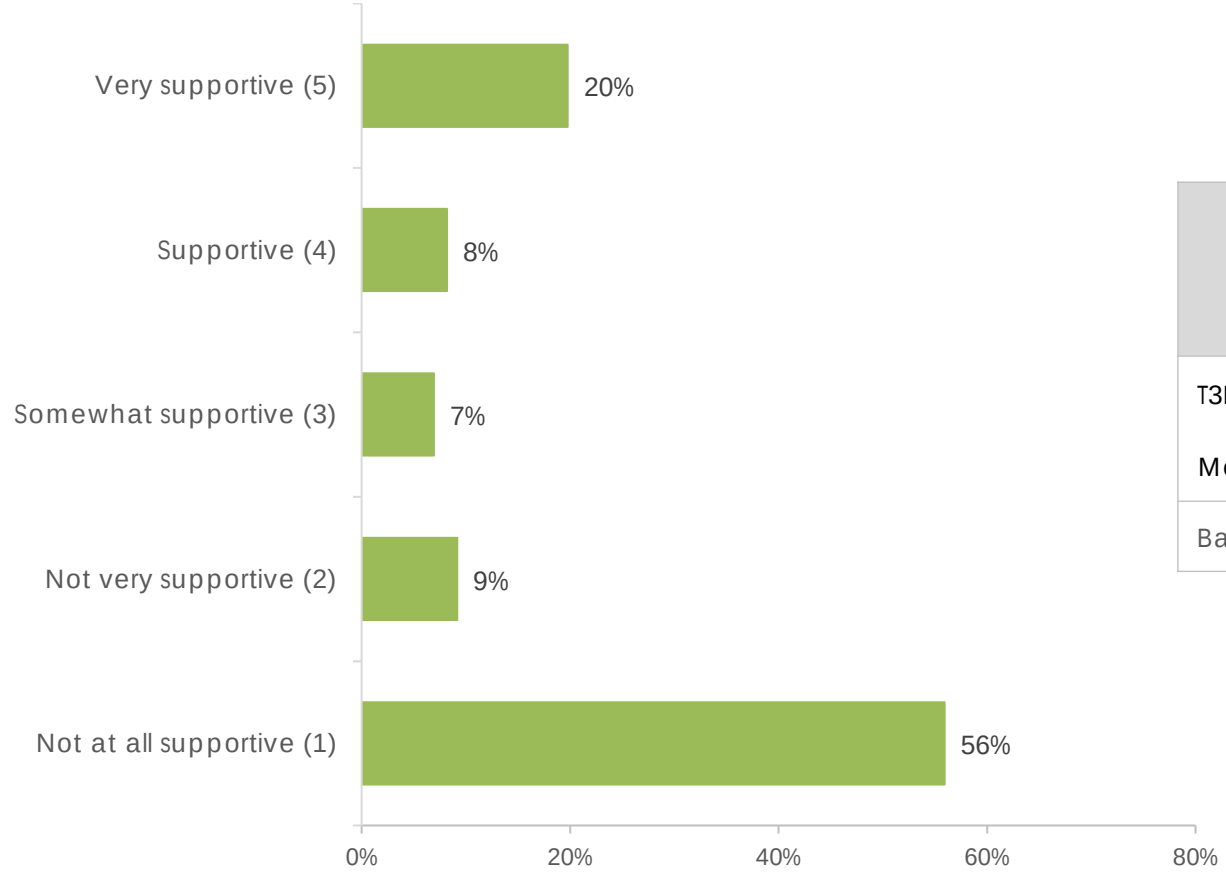
Online respondents are significantly less supportive of all three de-amalgamation options.

Support for Option A

Online

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.

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



	Phone	Online
T3B	58%	35%
Mean rating	2.88	2.27
Base	601	1,441

Base: N = 1,441

Scale: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = very supportive

Almost two thirds of online respondents are not very/not at all supportive of Option A, where Council would de-amalgamate and return to service levels provided prior to amalgamation.

Online respondents' support for this option is significantly lower than residents during the telephone survey.

Support for Option A

Online

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.

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

	Overall	Under 35	35-49	50-64	65+	CALD Background (Yes)	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Mean rating	2.27	1.88▼	1.89▼	2.37	2.94▲	2.39	2.31▲	1.96
Top 3 Box	35%	24%▼	26%▼	38%	52%▲	38%	36%▲	27%
Base	1,441	246	424	461	310	298	1259	182

	Previous LGA			Time lived in the LGA				Support for de-amalgamation	
	Ashfield Council	Leichhardt Council	Marrickville Council	<5 years	6 – 10 years	10+ years	I live outside the Inner West	Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Remain as Inner West Council
Mean rating	1.70▼	2.64▲	2.33	1.71▼	1.93▼	2.52▲	1.67	4.34▲	1.36
Top 3 Box	21%▼	44%▲	36%	19%▼	26%▼	42%▲	22%	92%▲	10%
Base	383	491	561	291	211	930	9	440	1001

Scale: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = very supportive
▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of support

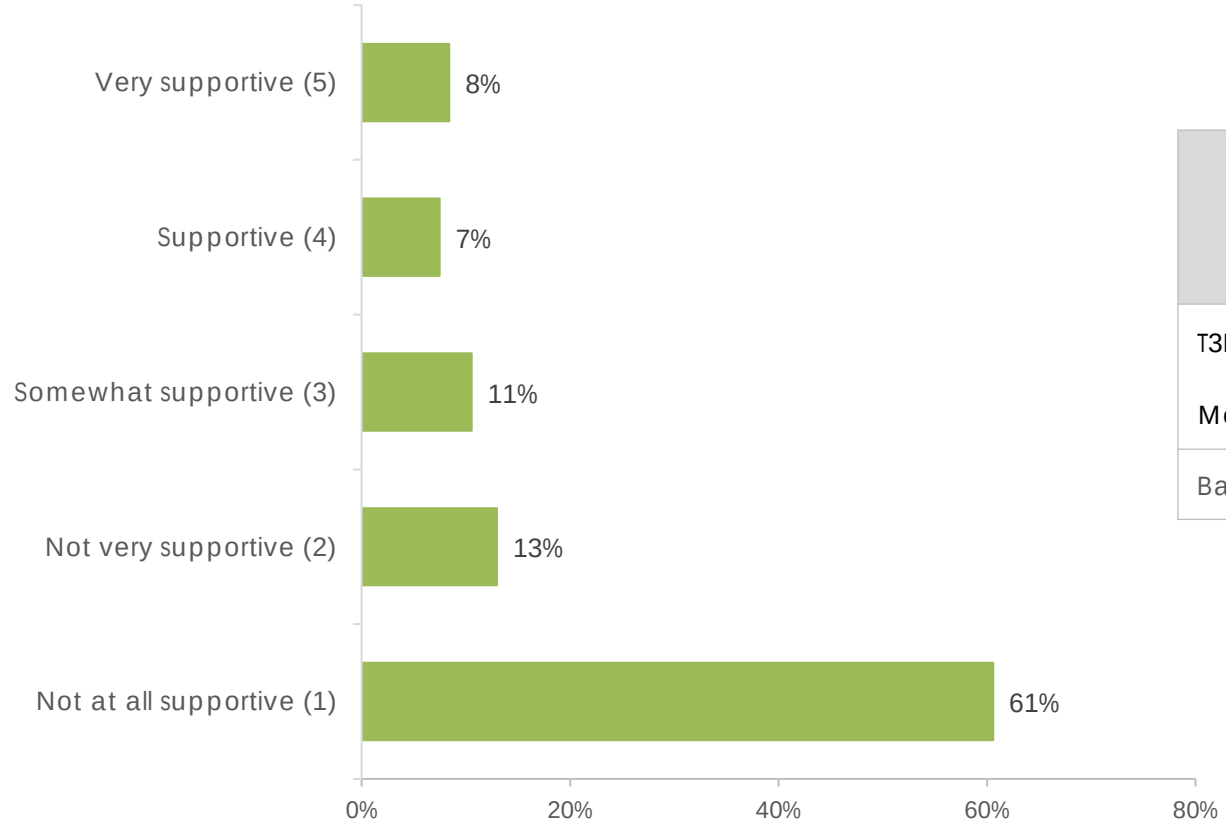
Online respondents aged 65+, ratepayers, those from the former Leichhardt Council area and those who have lived in the area for more than 10 years were the most supportive of Option A (De-amalgamate and return to service levels provided prior to amalgamation).

Support for Option B

Online

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.

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



	Phone	Online
T3B	42%	26%
Mean rating	2.35	1.90
Base	601	1,441

Base: N = 1,441

Scale: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = very supportive

74% of online respondents are not very/not at all supportive of Option B, which included de-amalgamation and maintaining the service levels provided by the current Inner West Council.

Online respondents' level of support is significantly lower than residents during the telephone survey.

Support for Option B

Online

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.

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

	Overall	Under 35	35-49	50-64	65+	CALD Background (Yes)	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Mean rating	1.90	1.83	1.76▼	1.95	2.08▲	1.89	1.92	1.78
Top 3 Box	26%	23%	23%▼	28%	32%▲	24%	27%	23%
Base	1,441	246	424	461	310	298	1,259	182

	Previous LGA			Time lived in the LGA				Support for de-amalgamation	
	Ashfield Council	Leichhardt Council	Marrickville Council	<5 years	6 – 10 years	10+ years	I live outside the Inner West	Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Remain as Inner West Council
Mean rating	1.56▼	2.09▲	1.97	1.76▼	1.87	1.95▲	2.11	2.90▲	1.46
Top 3 Box	16%▼	33%▲	28%	20%▼	25%	29%▲	33%	57%▲	13%
Base	383	491	561	291	211	930	9	440	1,001

Scale: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = very supportive
▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of support

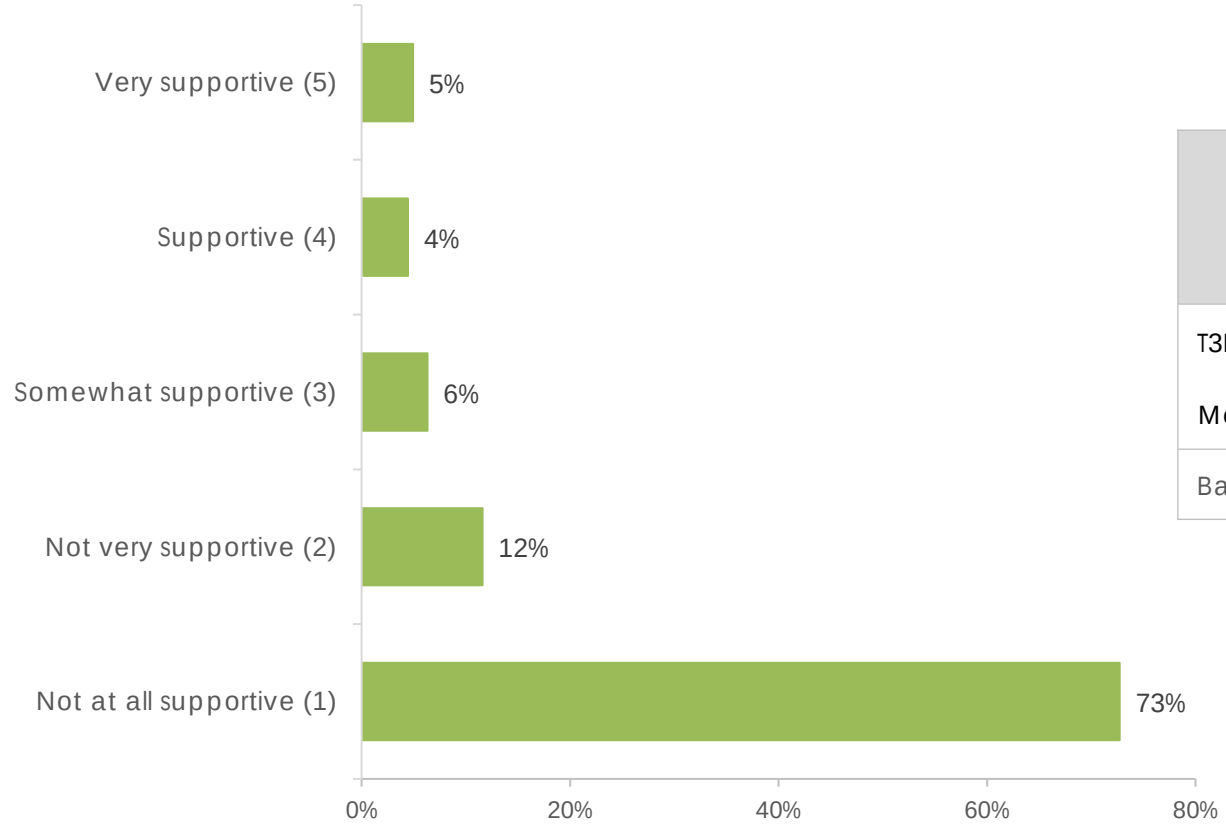
Online respondents aged 35-49, those from the former Ashfield Council and those who have lived in the area for fewer than 5 years the least supportive of this option.

Support for Option C

Online

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

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



	Phone	Online
T3B	41%	15%
Mean rating	2.37	1.57
Base	601	1,441

Base: N = 1,441

Scale: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = very supportive

85% residents are not very/not at all supportive of Option C, where Council de-amalgamate and reduce to below pre-amalgamation Council service levels (so that there is no additional cost increase for households).

Online respondents expressed a significantly lower level of support for this option when compared to the results of the telephone survey.

Support for Option C

Online

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

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

	Overall	Under 35	35-49	50-64	65+	CALD Background (Yes)	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Mean rating	1.57	1.51	1.50	1.58	1.72▲	1.75▲	1.59	1.48
Top 3 Box	15%	15%	14%	15%	19%	22%▲	16%	14%
Base	1,441	246	424	461	310	298	1259	182

	Previous LGA			Time lived in the LGA				Support for de-amalgamation	
	Ashfield Council	Leichhardt Council	Marrickville Council	<5 years	6 – 10 years	10+ years	I live outside the Inner West	Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Remain as Inner West Council
Mean rating	1.54	1.65	1.52	1.35▼	1.48	1.66▲	2.00	2.36▲	1.23▼
Top 3 Box	15%	17%	14%	10%▼	16%	18%▲	22%	38%▲	6%▼
Base	383	491	561	291	211	930	9	440	1001

Scale: 1 = not at all supportive, 5 = very supportive
▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of support

This is the least supported of all options.

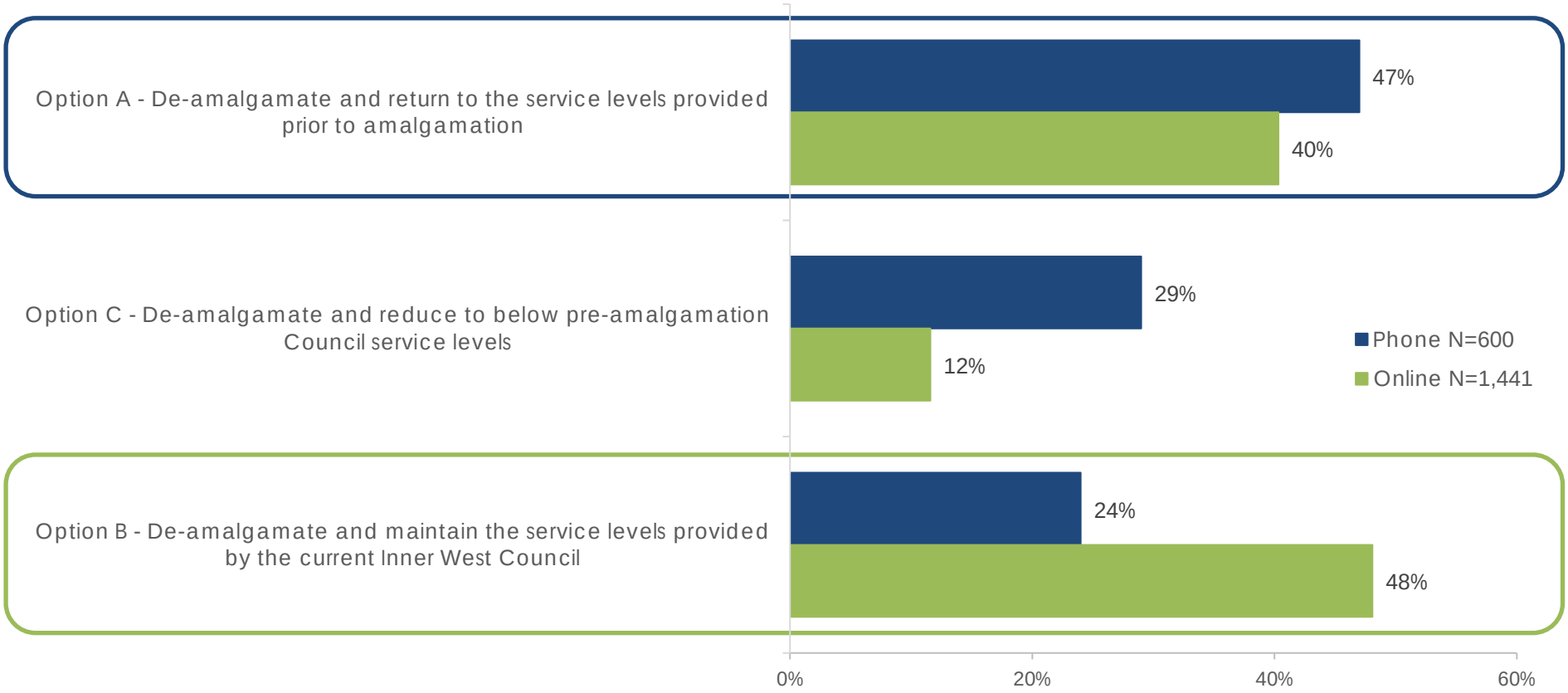
Even of those who support de-amalgamation only 38% are somewhat supportive on this Option C.

Preferred De-amalgamation Option

Phone Online

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

First Preference - Overall



If there were to be de-amalgamation, respondents were asked to rank their preference of the 3 options. For online respondents, Option B, de-amalgamate and maintain the service levels provided by the current IWC was the preferred option (48%). This option was the preference for only 24% of telephone respondents.

Preferred De-amalgamation Option

Online

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

First preference %	Overall	Under 35	35-49	50-64	65+	CALD Background (Yes)	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
*Maintain the service levels provided by the current Inner West Council	48%	56%▲	53%▲	47%	37%▼	42%▼	47%▼	59%▲
*Return to the service levels provided prior to amalgamation	40%	28%▼	34%▼	41%	57%▲	41%	41%▲	33%▼
*Reduce to below pre-amalgamation Council service levels	12%	16%▲	13%	12%	5%▼	17%▲	12%	8%
Base	1,441	246	424	461	310	298	1259	182

First preference %	Previous LGA			Time lived in the LGA				Support for de-amalgamation	
	Ashfield Council	Leichhardt Council	Marrickville Council	<5 years	6 – 10 years	10+ years	I live outside the Inner West	Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Remain as Inner West Council
*Maintain the service levels provided by the current Inner West Council	54%▲	43%▼	48%	58%▲	55%▲	43%▼	33%	20%▼	61%▲
*Return to the service levels provided prior to amalgamation	30%▼	47%▲	41%	27%▼	32%▼	47%▲	33%	74%▲	26%▼
*Reduce to below pre-amalgamation Council service levels	16%▲	10%	10%	15%	13%	10%▼	33%▲	7%▼	14%▲
Base	383	491	561	291	211	930	9	440	1001

*Please see the previous slide for the complete description

▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by group)

Residents aged under 49, non-ratepayers, those from the former Ashfield LGA and those who have lived in the area for fewer than 10 years were more supportive of Option B (de-amalgamate and maintain the service levels provided by the current IWC) as a first preference.

Overall Preference

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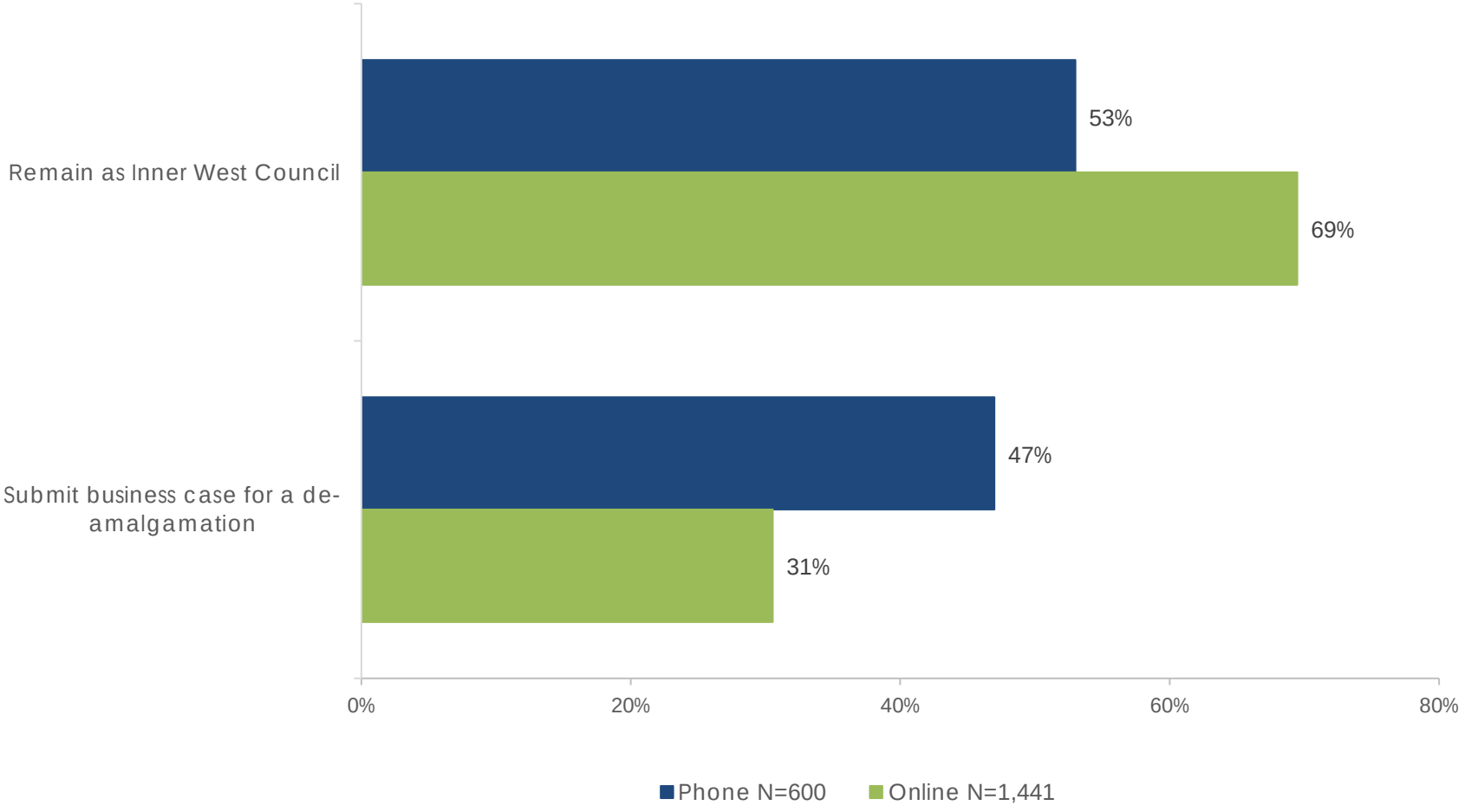
Preference for De-amalgamation or Remain Inner West Council

Phone Online

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?*



Given all information and provision of de-amalgamation options, respondents were asked for their preference overall. 69% of online respondents prefer for Council to remain as Inner West Council. Support for remaining as IWC was strongest amongst online respondents 69% v 53%.

Preference for De-amalgamation or Remain Inner West Council

Online

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?

	Overall	Under 35	35-49	50-64	65+	CALD Background (Yes)	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Remain as Inner West Council	69%	83%▲	80%▲	67%	48%▼	67%	68%▼	80%▲
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	31%	17%	20%	33%	52%	33%	32%	20%
Base	1,441	246	424	461	310	298	1259	182

	Previous LGA			Time lived in the LGA			
	Ashfield Council	Leichhardt Council	Marrickville Council	<5 years	6 – 10 years	10+ years	I live outside the Inner West
Remain as Inner West Council	87%▲	57%▼	69%	87%▲	79%▲	62%▼	56%
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	13%	43%	31%	13%	21%	38%	44%
Base	383	491	561	291	211	930	9

▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower percentage (by group)

Residents aged under 49, non-ratepayers, those from the from the former Ashfield LGA and those who have lived in the LGA for fewer than 10 years were significantly more supportive of remaining as Inner West Council.

Reason for Preferring De-amalgamation

Online

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?

Q8b. Why do you say that?

Submit a business case for de-amalgamation	Base N=439
The amalgamated Council has not provided any improvement in service delivery/facilities/services have declined	23%
The community want de-amalgamation/supportive of de-amalgamation	23%
Smaller/individual council areas are better/provide improved management/better services/facilities	20%
Amalgamation has removed governance/decision making from the community, a more localised response is needed	14%
Communication/engagement/transparency with the community - More information/detail is needed	11%
Cost implications/considerations/financial impact	11%
Amalgamating the councils was not in the best interests of the community initially	9%
The business case should be submitted for review and informed decisions made	9%
Efficiency of service delivery/management	7%

Example Verbatim Comments

"Council's service delivery has been much poorer than was the case prior to amalgamation"

"I have no faith in the amalgamated council, service levels have deteriorated significantly"

"The Inner West Council area is too large. Council areas should be smaller to better represent the needs of the people within that smaller area."

"The residents of the Inner West have spoken loudly in favour of de-amalgamation"

"Local councils should represent local issues and people. They should not be mini governments"

*Please see Appendix A for comments <7%

Key reasons for preferring Council submit a business case supporting de-amalgamation centre on a sentiment that IWC has not provided any improvements in service delivery/facilities, the community are simply supportive of the return to the former LGAs and that smaller/individual council areas provide better management/services.

Reason for Preferring to Remain as Inner West Council

Online

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?*

Q8b. *Why do you say that?*

Remain as Inner West Council	Base N=997
Cost implications/considerations/financial impact	48%
I don't think de-amalgamation will benefit the community/no cause for de-amalgamation	16%
The amalgamated Council is better managed/provides improved services in the area	16%
Inner West Council is doing a good job/I like the area amalgamated	14%
Council resources would be better spent on improving current service levels/addressing issues impacting the community	13%
Efficiency of service delivery/management	13%
De-amalgamation is not viable/more changes to Council are not productive	11%
It is better for service levels to remain as they are with no increase in rates/Service levels cannot deteriorate when costs are increased	8%

Example Verbatim Comments

"I believe Inner West Council to be operating efficiently and effectively enough from a residents perspective. I do not see need for change and do not see the benefit for the resident."

"The Council has wasted enough time and money on this, just get on and do the job please"

"Its a great Council, why waste the time effort investigating de-amalgamation"

"De-amalgamating is a huge waste of resources. Fix the things that are broken rather than wasting money."

"Council is delivering excellent services under current amalgamated model"

*Please see Appendix A for comments <8%

Key reasons for preferring Council remain as IWC are heavily influenced by cost considerations and financial implications of the de-amalgamation.

Appendix A: Additional Analyses

Priorities for Council to Focus on In the Local Area

Online

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...

	Overall	Under 35	35-49	50-64	65+	CALD Background (Yes)	Ratepayer	Non-ratepayer
Managing planning and development	4.37	4.13▼	4.34	4.42	4.52▲	4.33	4.39▲	4.19
Environmental protection	4.33	4.22▼	4.27	4.35	4.46▲	4.21▼	4.31	4.42
Climate change	4.06	4.02	4.00	4.05	4.20▲	3.80▼	4.05	4.15
Maintaining and provision of green open spaces	4.57	4.48	4.62	4.59	4.53	4.50	4.57	4.54
Traffic management/congestion	4.06	3.80▼	4.03	4.18▲	4.14	4.12	4.08	3.96
Availability and access to public transport	4.31	4.35	4.31	4.24	4.37	4.33	4.29	4.47▲
Access to parking facilities	3.40	3.08▼	3.28▼	3.57▲	3.57▲	3.45	3.42	3.25
Maintaining the character/ heritage/culture of the area	4.13	3.80▼	4.04▼	4.21▲	4.41▲	3.99▼	4.16▲	3.96
Improving road infrastructure/ maintenance of roads	4.16	3.96▼	4.16	4.20	4.25▲	4.24	4.17	4.04
Council efficiency/good leadership and communication	4.41	4.22▼	4.28▼	4.49▲	4.63▲	4.36	4.42	4.38
De-amalgamation of Inner West Council back into the previous Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils	2.24	1.70▼	1.83▼	2.29	3.15▲	2.34	2.31▲	1.80

Scale: 1 = not at all important, 5 = very important
▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of importance

Priorities for Council to Focus on In the Local Area

Online

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...

	Previous LGA			Time lived in the LGA				Support for de-amalgamation	
	Ashfield Council	Leichhardt Council	Marrickville Council	<5 years	6 – 10 years	10+ years	I live outside the Inner West	Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Remain as Inner West Council
Managing planning and development	4.42	4.37	4.34	4.18▼	4.28	4.45▲	4.00	4.36	4.37
Environmental protection	4.33	4.37	4.29	4.21▼	4.25	4.38▲	4.56	4.37	4.31
Climate change	4.03	4.13	4.02	4.10	3.99	4.07	4.11	4.12	4.04
Maintaining and provision of green open spaces	4.58	4.57	4.56	4.54	4.55	4.58	4.33	4.56	4.57
Traffic management/congestion	4.13	4.06	4.02	3.89▼	4.02	4.13▲	4.33	4.10	4.05
Availability and access to public transport	4.34	4.35	4.25	4.37	4.32	4.29	4.22	4.28	4.32
Access to parking facilities	3.37	3.52▲	3.31▼	3.14▼	3.30	3.51▲	3.33	3.53▲	3.34
Maintaining the character/heritage/culture of the area	4.10	4.19	4.10	3.90▼	3.85▼	4.26▲	4.44	4.40▲	4.01
Improving road infrastructure/maintenance of roads	4.25▲	4.13	4.11	4.02▼	4.11	4.21▲	4.22	4.14	4.16
Council efficiency/good leadership and communication	4.41	4.48▲	4.36▼	4.22▼	4.27▼	4.51▲	4.56	4.50▲	4.38
De-amalgamation of Inner West Council back into the previous Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils	1.56▼	2.65▲	2.33	1.59▼	1.86▼	2.52▲	2.89	4.69▲	1.16

Scale: 1 = not at all important, 5 = very important
▲▼ = A significantly higher/lower level of importance

2021 Poll on De-amalgamation – Reasons for Support

Online

Q5a. Can I ask what you voted for in 2021?

Q5b. (Only if Yes or No on Q5a) Why did you vote that way?

Reasons for <u>supporting</u> de-amalgamation – Additional comments	Base N=425
Three separate councils are better for preserving the heritage/character/community of the different areas	2%
Over governed/too many levels of government	2%
Inner West Council is more supportive of planning/development	2%
Dissatisfied with current councillors/staff/GM/Mayor	1%
Concerned about the loss of jobs	<1%
Not interested in seeing a decline in services as a result of de-amalgamation	<1%
Other	10%
Don't know/unsure/prefer not to say	1%

2021 Poll on De-amalgamation – Reasons for Against

Online

Q5a. Can I ask what you voted for in 2021?

Q5b. (Only if Yes or No on Q5a) Why did you vote that way?

Reasons for NOT supporting de-amalgamation – Additional comments	Base N=898
A larger council is more transparent/prevents corruption	1%
Not supportive of de-amalgamation	1%
Over governed/too many levels of government	1%
Rates are reasonable	1%
The amalgamated Council is focused on larger issues (e.g., climate change, recycling, sustainability) rather than localised issues	1%
The 'yes' campaign was rabid/emotionally driven	1%
Concerned about the loss of jobs	<1%
Dissatisfied with current councillors/staff/GM/Mayor	<1%
More time is needed to realise the true benefits of amalgamation	<1%
Not interested in seeing a decline in services as a result of de-amalgamation	<1%
The State Government is unlikely to allow de-amalgamation	<1%
Don't know/unsure/prefer not to say	<1%

Preference for De-amalgamation or Remain Inner West Council

Online

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?

Q8b. Why do you say that?

Submit a business case for de-amalgamation – Additional responses	Base N=439
The previous Councils provided a better sense of community/local identity	5%
Inner West is too much of a large area/large population for one Council	4%
The amalgamation/de-amalgamation is politically motivated	3%
The three areas are very diverse and have different local priorities, e.g., culturally, geographically etc	3%
Three separate councils are better for preserving the heritage/character of the different areas	3%
Council resources would be better spent on improving current service levels/addressing issues impacting the community	2%
It is better for service levels to remain as they are with no increase in rates/Service levels cannot deteriorate when costs are increased	2%
It seems as though Council is unsupportive of the move to de-amalgamate	2%
Concerned about the impact on Council staff	1%
Despite the outcome, I think there should be a continued sharing of resources, e.g., libraries	1%
Don't need any more councillors/duplicate services	1%
I am dissatisfied with the mayor/councillors/leadership	1%
The amalgamated Council is focused on larger issues (e.g., climate change, recycling, sustainability) rather than localised issues	1%
There are too many levels of government/over governed	1%
Amalgamation has failed in other councils	<1%

Preference for De-amalgamation or Remain Inner West Council

Online

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?

Q8b. Why do you say that?

Submit a business case for de-amalgamation – Additional responses	Base N=439
Better transparency, less chance of corruption	<1%
Inner West Council is more supportive of planning/development	<1%
It is simply the best option	<1%
None of the options are particularly good for the community	<1%
Remove politics from local government	<1%
The amalgamated Council provides a stronger, more independent voice, particularly when lobbying the State Government	<1%
The State Government is unlikely to approve the de-amalgamation	<1%
Would prefer to pay more to increase service levels	<1%
Other	16%

Preference for De-amalgamation or Remain Inner West Council

Online

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?*

Q8b. *Why do you say that?*

Remain as Inner West Council – Additional responses	Base N=997
Not supportive of de-amalgamation	5%
Communication/engagement/transparency with the community - More information/detail is needed	4%
The amalgamated Council provides a stronger, more independent voice, particularly when lobbying the State Government	3%
The amalgamation has provided a good identity for the community/people identify as a part of the Inner West community	3%
The amalgamation/de-amalgamation is politically motivated	3%
The business case should be submitted for review and informed decisions made	3%
Don't need anymore councilors/duplicate services	2%
Amalgamating the councils was not in the best interests of the community initially	1%
Don't know/unsure/prefer not to say	1%
Inner West Council is more supportive of planning/development	1%
More time is needed for IWC to prove themselves as doing a good job	1%
The amalgamated Council is focused on larger issues (e.g. climate change, recycling, sustainability) rather than localised issues	1%
There are too many levels of government/over governed	1%
Better transparency, less chance of corruption	<1%
Concerned about the impact on Council staff	<1%
It is simply the best option	<1%
None of the options are particularly good for the community	<1%
Remove politics from local government	<1%
The State Government is unlikely to approve the de-amalgamation	<1%
Other	10%

Appendix B:
Further Demographics & Background & Methodology

INNER WEST

micromex research

Additional Demographics

Online

Q1. In which suburb do you live?

	Base N=1,441
Ashfield	15%
Marrickville	13%
Leichhardt	10%
Newtown	7%
Balmain	6%
Rozelle	6%
Annandale	5%
Dulwich Hill	4%
Summer Hill	4%
Birchgrove	3%
Croydon	3%
Haberfield	3%
Petersham	3%
Balmain East	2%
Camperdown	2%
Enmore	2%
Lewisham	2%
Lilyfield	2%
St Peters	2%
Tempe	2%
Croydon Park	1%
Stanmore	1%
Sydenham	1%
Hurlstone Park	<1%
Ashbury	<1%
Other	<1%

Background & Methodology

Online

Sample selection and error

A total of 1,441 responses were completed via the online survey. Respondents were directed to the Council website to participate in the survey.

The sample was not weighted.

Interviewing

Interviewing was conducted in accordance with The Research Society Code of Professional Behaviour.

Data analysis

The data within this report was analysed using Q Professional.

Within the report, ▲▼ are used to identify statistically significant differences between groups, i.e., age, ratepayer status, length of time lived in the LGA, etc.

Significance difference testing is a statistical test performed to evaluate the difference between two measurements. To identify the statistically significant differences between the groups of means, 'One-Way Anova tests' and 'Independent Samples T-tests' were used. 'Z Tests' were also used to determine statistically significant differences between column percentages.

Percentages

All percentages are calculated to the nearest whole number and therefore the total may not exactly equal 100%.

Appendix C: Questionnaire

Online

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.

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

QB. How long have you lived in what is now the Inner West Council area?
Please select one response.

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

Q1. In which suburb do you live?
Please select one response.

- O Annandale
- O Ashbury
- O Ashfield
- O Balmain
- O Balmain East
- O Birchgrove
- O Camperdown
- O Croydon
- O Croydon Park
- O Dulwich Hill
- O Enmore
- O Haberfield
- O Hurlstone Park
- O Leichhardt
- O Lewisham
- O Lilyfield
- O Marrickville
- O Newtown
- O Petersham
- O Rozelle
- O St Peters
- O Stanmore
- O Summer Hill
- O Sydenham
- O Tempe

- O 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.

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

Online

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.

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

Q5b. Why did you vote that way?

.....

.....

.....

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.

Online

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.

- O Very supportive
- O Supportive
- O Somewhat supportive
- O Not very supportive
- O 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.

- O Very supportive
- O Supportive
- O Somewhat supportive
- O Not very supportive
- O 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.

- O Very supportive
- O Supportive
- O Somewhat supportive
- O Not very supportive
- O 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.

	1st preference	2nd preference	3rd preference
Option A – De-amalgamate and return to the service levels provided prior to amalgamation	O	O	O
Option B – De-amalgamate and maintain the service levels provided by the current Inner West Council	O	O	O
Option C – De-amalgamate and reduce to below pre-amalgamation Council service levels	O	O	O

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.

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

Q8b. Why do you say that?

.....

.....

.....

Q9. How did you <u>first</u> become aware of the de-amalgamation?
Please select one response.

- O Mail out from Council
- O Council website
- O Newspaper advertisement
- O Council eNewsletter
- O Mayoral Column in local paper
- O Social Media
- O Voting in December 2021

- O Other (please specify).....

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

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The information contained herein is believed to be reliable and accurate, however, no guarantee is given as to its accuracy and reliability, and no responsibility or liability for any information, opinions or commentary contained herein, or for any consequences of its use, will be accepted by Micromex Research, or by any person involved in the preparation of this report.

Telephone: (02) 4352 2388
Web: www.micromex.com.au
Email: stu@micromex.com.au

Appendix I Micromex online survey open-ended comments

Micromex online survey open-ended comments

This attachment contains the raw data of answers to the three open-ended questions. These were:

Table 1 - Q5. What did you vote for in 2021? Why did you vote that way?

Table 2 - Q8. 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? Why do you say that?

Table 3 - Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? (Comments from respondents who prefer to remain as Inner West)

Table 4 - Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? (Comments from respondents who prefer to submit a business case for de-amalgamation)

Table 1

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	"Local Government" is wholly a construction of State legislation. If the State Govt wants to redefine it, that's their prerogative. Local councils are a creche for people who are sociopathic enough to be State or Federal MPs, but who need a resignation or retirement before they can step up. Fewer of those is better. Australia is already over-governed. The entire point of Government is to act collectively to achieve things unattainable as individuals. Smaller governments atomise collectives and cause them to have less power, efficiency and influence. The only people who seem to be upset about amalgamation are elected Council members. Their umbrage and hurt feelings isn't a significant justification to create new councils; If they're unhappy they can always try a career change, no skin off anyone else's nose.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	1
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	1. seems like a waste of money and resources to return to separate councils 2. Why re-create duplication of services and remove economies of scale achieved through amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	A bigger voice to crate change
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	A complete waste of money I like that a larger council can deliver larger scale projects and initiatives No point trying to return to the past - not as easy in reality as it is on paper

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	A de-amalgamation could be more harmful then helpful
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	A larger Council is more efficient. The current size is c/w other Sydney Councils. We need fewer Councillors not more
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	A larger council would mean an equitable distribution of services across three of the amalgamated councils Unnecessary cost would be involved with de-amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	A lot of money was wasted amalgamating and I don't want more wasted de-amalgamating.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	A terrible waste of money to de-amalgamate now. Money better used to improve services etc. & employ more staff to follow up residents complaints.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	A total waste of resources to be de-amalgamating. Can people please focus on the future rather than the past. None of the former Councils had resources or could deliver services. There is a massive cultural problem in the Council - staff are not focused on serving the community. This comes from the amalgamation and then the dysfunctional that existed at elected Council level. With the current elected Council there is a once in a lifetime opportunity to fix the Council.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	A waste of funds for what is now a well functioning council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	a waste of monet
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	A waste of money Things work fine now Let's move forwards not backwards Just lining the pockets of councillors
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	A waste of money. Too parochial. Inner West council working well as is
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	A waste of our public funds, as people have voted to amalgamate the councils. No tangible and significant benefit of de-amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	A waste of time, effort and money to deamalgamate. The existing amalgamated council works well. The last thing we need is an increase in the number of councils and councillors. I can see no benefits for deamalgamation. We don't want increased rates.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Absolute waste of money and energy
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Access to services has improved greatly since amalgamation A bigger council such as inner west can achieve much more than separate councils

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Add cost and increase our rates
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Added costs to rate payers NSW government unlikely to allow de-amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Adds to the cost base of what is an already inefficient business Adds costs to me and my family as a ratepayer when I already do not receive value Spend the time and energy on fixing simple things now like pot holes and nature strip mowing and providing option for food waste like other councils. Eg Randwick council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	All the money that was spent on setting it up and having to change it I do not believe it is worth it
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Already been done and we don't need to go backwards. We don't need more councillors. Administration and services have improved with amalgamation.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Already too many government representatives The amalgamated IWC was doing a satisfactory job Scale of IWC leads to more optimal costs and efficiencies Not sure the case had been clearly or coherently made for de-amalgamation Like BREXIT, a simple binary vote engenders a knee-jerk attitude to regress to before
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Although I did not think it was a good idea when it was first implemented. The process has been done and it would cost to much money to unwind
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Although I disagreed with the forced amalgamations by the state government, at this point I think it would be a gross waste of money, time and resources to un-do all of the work to amalgamate. I think that money, time and resources would be better spent improving services from the inner west council. I also really like the idea of bringing the inner west suburbs together as they do share commonalities and it creates a nice sense of community across a larger area. This was really made clear following the covid loc
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Although I was originally against amalgamation, it has taken five often chaotic years to finally harmonize rates and services across the three former Councils. I feel that to try to now de-amalagamate would be far too disruptive and expensive and am worried that it is even being contemplated
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Amagamation has maintained or improved services overall The three separate councils are too small; no heft. Costs of deamalgamation - especially when nothing is broken Leichhardt has benefited the amalgamated model Inner West council has become an identified 'brand'. Ended Rats in the Ranks history for Leichhardt

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	amalgamated council has full time specialist professional expertise in specialist areas relevant to Innerwest eg heritage and planning more strategic approach to policies around development and environmental management / protection better coordination of resources across the LGA wasted costs of the 2016 merger - especially services that have taken 5 years to integrate eg library efficiencies of management
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Amalgamated councils are more efficient Amalgamated councils are more effective Amalgamated councils are less parochial Amalgamated councils are more strategic
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Amalgamated delivered greater efficiency and better service
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Amalgamating 3 councils assets into 1 council is common sense
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Amalgamating 3 councils assets into 1 council is common sense.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Amalgamation brings synergies leading to cost reduction, stronger management and hopefully more skilled De-amalgamation would undo all of that - more costs, more staff, possibly weaker management and more fighting between councils
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Amalgamation created efficiencies De amalgamation is costly There is a lot of 'fat' in local councils and historically poor financial management
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Amalgamation had been done at a huge cost to the ratepayers and community. The time, effort and money on de-amalgamation would only be wasteful and counter productive. All efforts should now be focussed on improving the way the amalgamated Council operates for the benefit and service of all of the Inner West
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Amalgamation has cost residents a lot; deamalgamation will cause similar costs to be incurred again by residents, which is not to our advantage in my view. My understandingis that the reason for forced amalgamation was to reduce the number of entities that could oppose NSW govt infrastructure projects that were problematic for local communities (specifically WestConnex). WestConnex is done, hence NSW govt now being open to de-amalgamation, potentially because IWC has itself become a powerful entity with politics that do not align with state govt leadership. I believethat the clout and presence that IWC has developed is advantageous in advocating for residents. This
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Amalgamation has increased services and reduced rates in my suburb
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Amalgamation has seen better pooling of resources and more impact in terms of Actual change.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Amalgamation is better for IWC More affordable services and better for residents The question was very badly worded for the vote. Because of that I'm concerned I accidentally voted to de-amalgamated
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Amalgamation is the most cost effective way in a modern Australia to properly resource and fund a council that can provide a wide range of resources without wasteful duplication of staffing, infrastructure and services Less cost in offering services to the communities it serves Less waste and mismanagement from duplicated services Less councillors, so far less cost and the end of councils that are 'local fiefdoms' controlled by developers and interest groups Less political interference through less self important councillors with their snouts in the trough.
No – do not support de-amalgamation	Amalgamation made no difference to the ways things were done, so why waste rate payers money de-amalgamating now, leave as is.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Amalgamation made no difference to the ways things were done, so why waste rate payers money deamalgamating now, leave as is.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Amalgamation only happened recently - there hasn't been enough time to really assess if it is working or not.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Amalgamation provides efficiencies and hence lower costs for residents
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Amalgamation provides greater efficiencies of scale Small LGAs risk increased internal beaurocracies Small LGAs cannot be strategic with other LGAs that they share a border, resulting in different strategies from one side of the road to the other.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Amalgamation was a good idea Efficiency Effectiveness
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Amalgamation works fine. I wouldn't have chosen it in the start but changing it is a waste of money. And to be honest it makes sense to be one 'inner west' that's how we Identify within Sydney anyway. Gives more options for facilities libraries and swimming and better waste collection.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Amalgamation would have been a massive project that would have redirected effort from more pressing matters although I was and I remain confident it is the best option. To now embark on another massive project to undo what was implemented just a few years ago would be a terrible waste of effort, focus and resources. I am appalled it is even being considered. I do not believe increasing the number of councillors increases representation rather the quality of councillors and process that puts them in place is more Also, I do not want the added costs, I do not believe that communities of interest somehow follow the old council boundaries and to stand on principle regarding self determination is foolish. Please don't deamalgamate.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	An enormous amount of money was spent amalgamating the councils and I don't see any benefit in de-amalgamating them
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	An LGA the size of Leichhardt was always an anacronysm and it was obvious that amalgamation was required from an efficiency perspective.. The suggestion that there would be less local representation was at best theoretical and at worst bogus in my view.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Another change introduces many further years of disruption and costs
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Another major upheaval for Council service delivery Loss of economies of scale Very happy with services provided by Inner West Inner West council is a good size compared to other LGAs which are too big or too small Deamalgamation would result in a return to parochislism
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Any realistic deamalgamation would be much less efficient and therefore rates would need to increase to maintain the same service level
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Appreciate the digital services & economies of scale that have been achieved since amalgamation.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Appreciated the larger council area when we went into COVID lockdown Greater sense of community with people in former Ashfield and Leichhardt council areas Like the idea that admission passes for one public pool can be used for other public pools in inner west Some services to be kept within Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville hubs to create healthy competition between hubs.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	As a resident of the old Ashfield council, we have had better services under the Inner West Council. We love having new street trees, street cleaning and street maintenance. I like having access to all the aquatic centres as well.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	As it is a waste of money
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	As outlined within Councils own summary findings, de-amalgamation results in significantly more costs and very limited benefits. The key benefit primarily outlined is "increased representation" when the level of councillors in my opinion is sufficient. Further, I'd argue most residents in the area would consider themselves from the "inner west" and so the current amalgamated Council is a fair reflection of the community.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	As we had not given much time for amalgamation I've not seen a diminishing of any services I didn't feel Ashfield council was performing that well
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	As we've already invested in amalgamation and forming the inner west council

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Ashfield benefits from being part of a larger council area with more resources Inner west suburbs have more influence with state government as a single large council than several small councils Larger council has efficiencies of scale and less captive to fringe interests
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Ashfield council was hopeless
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Ashfield council was rubbish. Our services have improved under inner west Access to the Leichhardt weekend tip Better cohesion across the inner west People who think deamalgation will be return to before are delusional I Prefer a higher ratepayer tk councillor ratio. They're not there for oldies to go have a chat. Do some work
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Ashfield council was truly woeful It makes sense to group like communities in a small geographic atea Economies of scale and the senseless costs in unwinding a successful amalgamation Shared infrastructure and services IWC does a far better job with bread and butter issues. Couldn't even get street trees under the former council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Ashfield has improved significantly under "Inner West Council"
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	At the time I thought there wasn't much difference between the level of service provided pre and post amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Australia has too many levels of government I believe in larger more regional councils for the benefit of savings I believe Inner West council has done a good job of consolidation and services are very well delivered
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because a larger council seems to get things done and not pussy foot about individual likes and dislikes. Inner west council has done a much better job all round and particularly with its pro tree attitude rather than worrying about every individual view in the council Also, a larger council keeps all customers happy and processes whereas, a small council tends to result in more factions and neighbours falling out.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because amalgamation has already happened and it would be a huge distraction for council to focus on de amalgamation as an issue and a colossal waste of resources were it to actually happen.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because amalgamation is working
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	because better service/things happening now that council bigger i can see it
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because de-amalgamation would cause cost and issues to be forced upon its residents I fully support the current amalgamation and an satisfied with the current inner west council

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because I am happy with the existing circumstances Because we don't need more politicians
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because I am happy with the way the Council amalgamation has gone. Because I was concerned that de-amalgating would would create more problems including cost issues.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because I believe that will waste valuable council money that could be spent on other more important social and environmental issues. Such as the climate crisis which is so severe at the moment. As well as mental health services which have exceeded demand post pandemic.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because I believed it will be less efficient
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because I chose to!
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because I don't like paying more money for a reduced service I don't want to pay more money just to create 2 extra HR and IT departments I see no tangible benefit to de-amalgamation I don't want to pay for more councillors.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because I have seen no change in anything since the amalgamation and if there was a demerger it would increase costs again
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because I read the consultants report at the time and could see no real benefit aside from the engagement of more councillors for pseudo representation.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because I think Inner West Council is doing a great job now. The larger council does create more capacity to address big issues like Climate Change but still at a meaningfully local level, as well as provide efficiencies that allow council to work on initiatives like the Arts and Music Summit.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because I think it's a waste of resources and the people pushing it are whining boomers use to getting their own way. I've seen this process happen all over Australia and the 1st 5 years is always most difficult but after that all the residents see the benefits. It's starting to get a gel and I would be disappointed to see that ripped up to restart. The inner west council area feels the same size as Dubbo and it works why make it smaller, it was great in lock down we had the space to move to lots of nice outdoor areas
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because I think the Inner West is an appropriate size and it is logical grouping.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because I understand that money can be saved, or better spent, by combining these councils Because I feel the Inner West is a community that fits well together and I'm proud to be part of it Because the appalling state of all the nature strips all over my suburb - despite making our streets look shabby and unloved - is the only singular complaint I have of the amalgamated council personally. Not a big enough reason to deamalgamate in my view
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because im happy with the way it is currently
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because in the 48 years I have lived in Birchgrove I have been very pleased to help make Balmain an even better place to live.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because it is a waste of money that would be better spent elsewhere
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because it is a waste of money to De-amalgamate Larger councils have more power and influence Councils will be too small after de-amalgamation The council areas are close enough in demographics and issues that they can function as an amalgamated council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because it is a waste of money to undo the amalgamation. There is no benefit.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because it is a waste of money. You already wasted money amalgamating and are now wanting to waste more money deamalgamating. Please stop wasting time and money on things that don't make much of a difference and focus on improving/enhancing the local area.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because it is stupid. Because it just hire more people into your offices without any benefit. Because it is a storm in the cup. The experts did not give a chance to raise their concern. Asking people without proper campaign is just a trick, not democratic.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because it is too costly Because the council is working fine as is
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because it should be more efficient to run. It is cheaper to run. The cost shedule you sent indicates as one council it is cheaper to run as thr option A annual costs for each council were set when Council was deemed not fit which is why amalgamation happened. If we de amalgamate (option B) our rates need to go up to cover a better service. The area of inner west is fairly small anyway, why make it smaller? I like the new LGA name of Inner West better than Marrikville.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because it will add costs, reduce efficiencies, and overall lead to a worse financial outcome for all ratepayers The augment that de amalgamation enhances local representation is flawed - effectiveness of representation

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
	is based on calibre & competency of Councillors and hence remuneration to attract quality candidates
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because it's unnecessary/seems politically motivated and I've been pleased with IWC's work over the years. The time, money, and effort given to this process could be better spent on the community and improving our resources.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because it's insane to split the council back up. Services are better, access to more facilities better Better administration and services, rates have become more reasonable
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because of amount of money already spent would be wasted Inner west council was delivering a better service than previous council Don't want to pay for executive salaries
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because of financial costs and difficulty
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because of the enormous expense and disruption involved. The council works fine as it is and it boggles the mind that we would spend time and money on this distraction. I love so not have any concern that I am not represented in the current council.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because of the increased costs incurred by de-amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because the almagamated council functions much better than before and undoing the amalgamation would cost huge amounts of money and effort that can better be spent improving the services to the community.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because the cost & time to almalgamate. To then spend money to run 3 separate councils that have similar issues would be an excessive waste of money Ashfield council was too parochial The inner west should be managed as a whole not micromanaged across 3 suburbs
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because the council has come so far to unite all the POrevious LGAs
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because the current service and facilities are far better than we had with Ashfield Council Ashfield Council was disfunctional We don't need more councillors Those pushing for demerger the hardest are the ex councillors - who just want their jobs back More councillors mean more opportunity for influence, lobbying and corruption
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because the efficiency and cost saving is too great to revert back Costs of redundancies have been paid to staff not needed, and that money is wasted if all 3 councils hire staff back. Better level of service provided now than beofre merger. 3 new councils will require a large number of staff, there is not a workforce available to support this and it will cost the

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
	community more to fund than projected. The purpose of merging councils was to reduce costs and that has worked.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because the financial cost to de-merge (if it's approved) means that rates will have to go up to pay for the new set up of three councils.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because the Inner West, as a collective has a louder voice that 20 smaller councils. Better sense of community. I am proud to be part of the Inner West. There is greater benefit in thinking of how the districts can work together than seperately.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because the present council is doing a good job, and I could;d not see any advantages in de-amalgamating. I also thought rates would increase if changes were made.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because the services and costs are better to stay amalgamated
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because there are efficiencies in the amalgamation both in terms of service provision and back office support. Why would we go back to three separate councils and the cost that involves when we can continue with what we have, which is an efficient, effective Inner West Council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because there was no good reason as to why we should de-amalgamate. Just because we were amalgamated under less than idea circumstances doesn't mean we should de-amalgamate
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because we are overgoverned as it is. There is no valid argument to have smaller niche local government areas. Councils should concentrate on collecting rubbish and fixing roads not creating political opportunities for Labor and Greens political aspirants. Stop wasting our rates on left wing BS self interest projects. It's simple. Do the basics that all residents require and stop wasting our rates.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because we have already wasted tax payers money. The almalgamation should not have happened to begin with but to undo it back to what it was to me is a big waste of money. That money could be better spent on bettering the inner west.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because we went through all this to amalgamate the council While I didn't support the merge at the time services have not dropped off De amalgamation would be a complex and costly process All the staff who worked at the other councils have gone and current staff who work there say it's a bad idea because it's not like we could easily just pivot back to where things were before The representation hasn't really diminished, I've always had three councillors representing my interests and I still do. I believe my vote doesn't count any less as things are
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because we wish to maintain the economies of scale brought by the merger so that services could be expanded snd quality of increased.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Because what is the tangible benefits? Economies of scale should work in favour of having a single council. Why is 3 required?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Being part of Inner West Council during lockdowns when you could only travel within your council made a huge difference. I like being part of the IWC community. If de-amalgamation passes, we would belong to Ashfield council and we have no attachment to that at all. We are much more connected to Leichhardt and Marrickville than Ashfield.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Believe current situation is good Think the alternative will cost more and offer less
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Believed the larger Council was more able to provide better & more efficient services
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	best to not try and descramble the egg
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Best use of council funds under an amalgamation Best updated facilities under an amalgamation Total nonsense having single councils
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Better economies of scale in service provision and creative initiatives Amalgamated council better reflects the broadly shared qualities and character of the inner west Promotes progressive agendas across the amalgamated council area
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Better efficiencies in amalgamation so savings can be spent on community
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Better Efficiency Lower Cost Leaner Structure
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Better efficiency More scrutiny over decisions
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	better having bigger stronger councils
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Better to get on with the existing mergers rather than go backwards. Too expensive in terms of money and time. Waste to undo processes part way through of amalgamation. Eg planning instruments Too confusing and distracting for staff. Think of other ways to ensure locals have voice.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Better use of resources The area has vommon values and culture Better outcomes through a robust administration
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Bigger council should be more efficient
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Bigger councils are more efficient in the use of resources Larger councils can provide more and better public facilities Easier to raise money

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Can’t see the benefits of splitting council.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cannot see the benefits of deamalgamating
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Can't see any real benefits. Suspect that the de-amalgamate case was petty politics Don't feel my area has "lost" any autonomy or uniqueness in amalagamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cheaper
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cleaner suburbs since amalgamation Regular mowing / sidewalk maintenance since amalgamation More visibility of council members and staff since amalgamation More accountability from council regarding concerns since amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cleary no difference or point putting and paying for more employees and or councillors will change the fact of the incompetence of all councils. So we don’t want to pay for wages that will t help us and our community improve a thing regards to your repairs to footpaths,roads, rangers that can’t stop dog attacks on council land.why would we pay more for the same unhelpful services we are being provided with.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Complete waste of money Over governed Population size does not require 3 councils
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Completely unnecessary
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Complexity and cost of de-amalgamation. Although opposed to the forced amalgamation I now feel comfortable with the Inner West brand and the area covered. Services such as library services have improved under the amalgamation.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	concerned about loss of services additional cost
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Concerned about the cost
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Consideration of fees and resources. Concerned about cost of demerger that would take funding away from needed council services. Concerned about disruption to services.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost Additional cost to be incurred Council has not maintained council now or before de-amalgamation Current Major not completing his role
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost already sunk into amalgamation Waste of money to deamalgamate Prefer to stay inner west council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost and disruption associated with deamalgamation Lower services / higher costs associated with providing services in de amalgamated council Less financial sustainability as a result of duplication of staffing, equipment Parochial thinking of smaller councils rather than wider strategic objectives Lower quality of leadership team resulting from attracting the 'smaller fish' to the smaller council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost and jobs and valuable staff already lost Going back to administration - residents didn't have anyone to stand up for them Ashfield Council would not be financially viable as stand alone council. I was in Marrickville Council but am now in Ashfield Ward. I would be very upset if I was suddenly in Ashfield Council which could not offer the same level of services Rates will enevitable rise Services such as waste collection, parks, urban forests which have been unified and have provided efficiencies will now be lost
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost associated with de-almalgamation. The services in my immediate area have improved Stop wasting further time and resources. Previously happy with a separate council. Outraged by the NSW Gov actions, but we need to move forward. De-amalgamation appears emotive vs logical.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost benefit assessment found found that one-off de-amalgamation costs would total $26.2 million, while the ongoing costs and benefits would be $22.1 million. The cost benefit assessment projected that all three councils would have a “significant operating funding shortfall”, ratepayers would be subject to an average increase of $266. A summary of the Inner West’s income and expenditure found council to be operating at a $22,110 deficit, with predominant expenses sourced from employee benefits and “all other expenses”. one council for the Inner West represents a shared vision that can create a stronger, more efficient system for all ratepayers. de-amalgamation could take over 18 months to complete, which may create a long-term suspension of local governing in the community, where residents’ concerns will struggle to be addressed in council.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	cost benefit does not stack up too many politicians pushing their own agenda poor communication on demerger vote
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost Couldn’t see a strong business case Don’t like losing economy of scale

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost efficiencies in lowering overheads. Employs less bureaucrats. Less wastage. Waste of money reversing the change that has brought about benefits in efficiency. Do not want to pay higher rates.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost efficiencies Less government Less fiefdom creating More accountability
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost efficiencies of a merger. A larger Council has more purchasing and negotiation power. Cost of compliance and IT infrastructure is increasing. Very difficult for a small entitlement to comply / provide good quality service. The merger wasn't the real issue. Everyone over 70 I know complained about Leichhardt Council and wanted Balmain Council reinstated!
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost efficiency for combining the councils.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost Efficiency Staff levels Removal of siloed districts
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost I live across the Inner West area, not just Marrickville council area
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost increase in rates for worse service Balmain cleaner and better services since amalgamation Before council meeting took 4-5 hours nothing got done as too many opinions
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost Inefficiency of small councils Able to borrow from more libraries The 3 areas are similar and benefit from a single authority
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost Inefficiency Waste of money
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost of de-amalgamation Absurdity of "shared-services" model that is anti-democratic being pushed by "pro-democracy" campaign. Higher rates post split
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost of de-amalgamation I am satisfied with council service No benefit of de-amalamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost of de-amalgamation Waste of Resources Yes campaign was extremely rabid
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost of deamalgamation will be prohibitive Stat govt unlikely to support it and definitely won't pay for it Councillors supporting deamalgamation aren't working for the whole municipality, only their small patch of their former councils. This has been destructive and has led to nothing but discord and a refusal to work with other councillors Impact on council staff will be negative. They have had so much disruption it's unfair to put

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
	them thought more Cost of renegotiation of contracts which have just been renegotiated
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost of demerger What's done is done
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	cost saving able to use different area of service more beneficial as combined community
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost to community Complication
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost to de-amagalate doesn't make sense It makes sense to have efficiencies gained by larger council Addition costs to run seperate councils and increased rates Things are acceptable as they are now - don't feel as though we are missing anything
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost to take it back to single council areas
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost too high Current service is good Massive waste of recourses Let's focus on the future
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost too much to implement Too much money and time spent researching and promoting the deamalgamation in the first place Money can be better spent on other things Looks like a power grab
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost Works well as is
No – do not support de-amalgamation	Cost. Works well as is.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost/benefit analysis does not stack up for de-amalgamating Amalgamation offers economies of scale. IWC has not been given enough time for economies of scale to kick in Fewer shared boundaries leads to better overall management and more cohesive plans
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Cost/benefit analysis for undergoing de-amalgamation does not stack up We have not noticed material differences to having a single council It's a waste of money to do this when the actual impact to ratepayers is minimal The communications from council and action on things like roads and projects (greenway) has been very positive since amalgamation Councillors need to be professional, act with integrity and transparency - this seems to have improved since amalgamation but could further improve
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Costly for no benefit Waste of resources

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Costly Inner west council works well The yes campaign was rabid The cost to demerge can be better used on services
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Costly to do with no return on investment for residents. Knew nothing significant would come out of it that would better individual households. Larger council has less knowledge about specific suburbs and their needs. Knew it would eventually be voted back regardless. Not sustainable for such a big suburban area in Sydney with very specific needs to function properly for residents benefit.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Costly Unneccessary Waste money and resources Larger Council is better in term of infrastructure planning and development
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Costs and disruption to existing services
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Costs more
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Costs of deamalgamation Happy with services Suspicious that the agenda is to create more councillors
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Costs of deamalgamation Loss of economies of scale Better links across inner west Questionable financial viability of smaller councils
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Costs of de-amalgamation No clear benefit of de-amalgamation. Larger council has higher economy of scale Larger organisations have stronger governance
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Costs of de-amalgamation outweigh benefits
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Costs of de-amalgamation Reduction in efficiency through loss of economies of scale Lack of consistency across the broader inner west Potential lack of coordination across the inner west A stronger, united voice for the inner west, if we remain united
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Costs of deamalgamation with no productivity increase Insanity to go back and forwards, amamalagamation/deamamalgamation I believe this idea is in self interest of the councillors
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Costs seem excessive and council currently seems to do a good job as it is.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Council and the NSW government has already wasted a lot of money to amalgamate, we have seem some efficiencies with no real loss levels amd we have seen a slight reduction in rates. To now suggest we spend more taxpayer money to de amalgamate seems just a further waste of money paid for by the ratepayers. There does not seem to be any real benefit to de amalgamate and at the same time there are significant risks, and ongoing cost to be bourne by ratepayers which to me is unacceptable. When the poll was taken in 2021 during the Council election, there was misinformation being spread at the polling booths by those supporting de-amalgamationnwhich was contrary to the findings of the draft report. When I challenged them about the mis information they did not know the outcome of the draft report but were just pushing their party line. Council should focus on getting on with the job and stop being distracted by this issue of de amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Council has been amalgamated rightly or wrongly. Council should work to improve what they have. Do not waste millions of dollars on deamalgamation.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Council has not provided reasonable justification or clear and compelling benefit of de-amalgamation. Council has not justified the additional costs that will be incurred by a de-amalgamation. It is clear that a de-amalgamation will result in reduced efficiencies and increased costs that will result in higher rates. Council has not clearly identified what is not working with the current Inner West Council that would be resolved by a de-amalgamation. The de-amalgamation would not provide fair and reasonable public benefit.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Council has spent enough to amalgamate it should just focus on making it work. Amalgamation allows a coherent and holistic approach to the whole inner west area, allows more connected planning of infrastructure and services Deamalgamation results in fragmented approach to long term planning
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Council is doing a good job Deamalgamation is just a NIMBY charter Don't want to duplicate services Like the services that scale brings
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Council is doing a good job now Service levels have increased Old council was hijacked by minority interests, new council is to big for that to happen Perceived increases in costs after de-amalgamation We've just amalgamated at huge cost, to de-amalgamate after such a short period will incur additional one off costs for very little gain
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Council is great how it is De-amalgamation is a waste of money Having services combined between areas saved money It reduces and prevents corruption Helps prevent incompetent councillors making deals with their mates

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Council is only now starting to see the benefit of the amalgamation. Restructure takes Time and in the process the community is impacted negatively. We cannot afford to Continue to disrupt the actions that are now being committed to. De-amalgamation Is an unnecessary disruption
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Council is performing well and costs to revert back Would be high especially on going salaries /wages Rates are more reasonable for Ashfield residents now
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Council is running efficiently as is & economies of scale with an amalgamated council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Council is stronger together. IWC can achieve bigger outcomes with a larger footprint. I thoroughly disagree with de-amalgamation.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Council is working well as it is Reduced cost
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Council provides better services as the Inner West council, is more efficient and less parochial. The cost to deamalgamate is too high and will coet ratepayers too much. What's done is done, move on
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Council quality comes from size and scale - splitting into small tinpot councils will be expensive, wasteful and reduce the quality of council capability. I actually think the councils should be bigger. Spend the de-amalg cost on better and wider footpaths, green spaces, playgrounds, cyclelanes.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Council seems to be more productive than previously under marrickville council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Council services are way more efficient amalgamated De amalgamating is a waste of time and money
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Council services have improved A LOT with amalgamation. I'm not concerned about the "democracy" involved in having more councillors. I think you get better quality councillors with a larger population pool to draw on. Ashfield is smaller and poorer than Leichhardt and Balmain, and amalgamation of different areas is more equitable. I think it was a ridiculous idea and the only reason so many voted yes is they didnt really understand the question as it almost included a double negative.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Council street clean up has never been so good rates are reasonable
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Council will more efficiently and effectively serve ratepayer interests as a larger organisation with access to greater resources and more and better staff to deliver services.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Council works well now More cost and higher rates if de amalgamation Lived in Auckland which had one council for whole city. Worked very well and allowed for truly strategic planning
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	councils are great for reperesenting the local needs of society, but much more cost effective, rational, to make the areas laeger in scope Simply don't understand why we need to deamalgamate. who cares if i'm in ashfield or newtown or annandale, we're all inner west, same interests keeps admin costs down if we're all in it together
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Councils have far greater challenges to focus on then de-amalgamation The de-amalgamation projects as the arrogant endeavour of the few . It will be a multi-year bureaucratic mess. The councils struggle to staff, fund and provide service as it is, division would only bring further inefficiency through duplication of services across new councils
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Councils should be even larger for economy of scale, ability to campaign the state government and to provide a cohesive plan for a large area.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Councils were amalgamated for a reason - so many efficiencies to be found and the additional expenses to both facilitate the de-amalgamation and maintain 3 separate councils show just how inefficient it really is. I have been satisfied with the amalgamated council in both my personal dealings as a resident and in my dealings from a professional standpoint as well, so see no value lost.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Covid restrictions allowed access to a greater area I identify as an inner westie Seems like a waste of money and resources to undo amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Critical mass should give better service
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Current configuration is more cost effective and appears to operate well
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Current council is working effectively. No need to go back to old overmanaged councils
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Current council works well Bigger council area is more efficient and has more say with state government We are just as well represented as we used to be Individual neighbourhood character is still being promoted (eg Little Greece) Shared services are much better (eg access to swimming pools)
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Current IWC is efficient and providing excellent service De-amalgamation is a waste of funds
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Current level of representation is sufficient Significant costs involved in de-amalgamation with little gain Current Lga boundaries are more representative of the inner west precinct

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	De amalgamating is a massive waste of time and effort. Smaller councils are inefficient and more expensive to run. We are stronger together as a larger community council area and able to better affect State and Federal policies. No clear substantive reason has been made to de amalgamate. There are so many other priorities to pursue, please focus on what other priorities.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	De amalgamation at this point seems counterproductive and expensive. Just get on with the job of servicing the community.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	De amalgamation brings unnecessary admin and bureaucracy to local council The current council is providing adequate service The current council footprint maximises representation for the inner west community as a whole
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	De amalgamation has many risks and costs. It has no benefits for me whatsoever. I am generally satisfied with council's services.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	De amalgamation is inefficient, IW council has a strong brand and service. The benefits as listed seem to favour councillors only - more representatives De amalgamation would leave each independent council in a worse financial position An amalgamated IW council holds more clout at state govt level.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	De amalgamation is stupid and inefficient It's a waste of rate payer money It's inefficient
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	De amalgamation will cost more.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	De- amalgamation will involve wasteful duplication De-amalgamation will reduce innovation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	De amalgamation would increase costs and reduce service levels. It just doesn't make organisational or financial sense.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	De amalgamation would lead to lower efficiency and higher rates Service levels across council are higher than prior amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Dealmagamation is inefficient and a waste of resources
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Deamalgamation is a distraction: the past is past and we should be looking forward Deamalgamation will increase costs Loss of political clout in disputes with NSW government
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	De-amalgamation is a ridiculous waste of time and money; the current council works effectively. Why spend millions on rebranding + time and effort to reverse something that is working just because no one bothers to

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
	pay attention and have been swayed by a couple of crackpots who don't know what they're talking about
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	De-amalgamation is a waste of money and resources Individual councils aren't needed. IWC takes advantage of economies of scale. I've had better services (particularly online) than I ever had pre-amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	De-amalgamation is a waste of time and is costly. I can't see the benefits of de-amalgamating. Efficiencies gained should be maintained
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	De-amalgamation is an even bigger waste of time and money than the original amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	De-amalgamation is expensive, unnecessary, and will result in reduced and ineffective services in our area
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Deamalgamation is not necessary Previous councils representing smaller areas were inherently resource-inefficient Deamalgamation is too expensive It appears that calls for deamalgamation are primarily driven by political interests, rather than by a desire to better represent our community
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	De-amalgamation offers 0 benefits. Higher costs, less efficiency, and a smaller organisation results in less power to manage development.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	De-amalgamation requires the consent of the state government, which is unlikely to be given. De-amalgamation would provide intangible benefits and tangible costs Forced amalgamation was a concerning process and decision, but energy should be put into investigating corrupt provision of funds, not unscrambling the egg
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	De-amalgamation will be a waste of money
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Deamalgamation will be expensive and distruptive Deamalgamation will lead to reduced services Very happy with IWC services and staff I strongly identify with the Inner West community I live near the border of 3 former council areas which as dysfunctional
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	De-amalgamation will cost rate payers extra expense on top of the expense already undertaken to amalgamate
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Deamalgamation will cost the council additional money to implement The performance of the council is currently adequate Significant staff and operational matters have been implemented to amalgamate, those efficiencies must not be lost now! This survey should be geared only at rate paters and property owners who pay council rates and not tenants who incur no cost

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	De-amalgamation will result in more cost and less efficiency. The only beneficiary of de-amalgamation will be the deluded individuals who want to be politicians. I want less politicians not more. The current council appears to be running efficiently with access to resources across the inner-west. The loss of economies of scale will not benefit anyone apart from those people who want to get on council for their own benefit. I have seen nothing that would indicate there is a real benefit from de-amalgamation.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Deamalgamation would be a horrible waste of time and money. We do not need more councillors; we need the current ones to do their job with a staff the correct size and skills for the job. Efficiency please, not increased local representation. Stop looking for a problem that doesn't need fixing!
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	De-amalgamation would be a massive waste of time, energy and money that could be spent on more important services.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	De-amalgamation would be a significant cost to both Council and State Government ($178-190 million) - this money could be better invested in infrastructure and services for the Inner West area Significant Council staff and resources would be required to de-amalgamate systems, processes and policies - staff and Council time could be better spent on more important priorities for the area such as land use planning decisions and infrastructure planning There is no notable indication from the State government that they would be willing to undo their decision to amalgamate the former council areas and/or consider a strategic business case to allocate $178-190 State government funding to the de-amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Deamalgamation would be a stupid and costly process. I love the idea of a united inner west council that represents the interests of inner west councils. I would prefer council to spend money on services and maintenance rather that going through a deamalgamation process. I do not want my rates to go up for a reduction of services for the sake of deamalgamation, do not see the benefit. This would also be a terrible worry for inner west council staff, who have already gone through a lot with amalgamation and don’t need to stress and administrative burden of deamalgation.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Deamalgamation would cost me hundreds of dollars per year for no apparent benefits
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	De-amalgamation would create substantial inefficiencies and increase rates
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	De-amalgamation would result in increased expenses for councils and waste money.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	De-malgamating would be incredibly inefficient, and a waste of ratespayers funds. Significant resources have gone towards establishing IWC, it would be a serious waste to undo that. I have found IWC excellent to deal with, through contact with a range of services including childrens services (daycare, Magic Yellow Bus), library services, waste (food recycling, household rubbish collection). There is consistency that would be compromised if deamalgamation took place.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Didn't vote then so voicing opinion now
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Diminishes services as a result of deamalgamation No economic benefit provided No service improvement provided Increases costs
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Do not need more councillors and management cost
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Do not want increases in rates or other costs Consolidated council is functioning well
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	does not offer value for rates
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Don’t need small councils and small council corruption. Cost savings are good for everyone Better service now Better identity as Inner West, rather than 3 mini areas
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Don’t need to Too expensive
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Don’t see any tangible benefits Increased costs Lower efficiencies and lost economies of scale Less oversight and resources
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Don’t see the point of changing something that is working Don’t want to pay higher rates
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Don’t want to waste the money
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	don’t waste millions of dollars on inefficiencies the inner west is a great council area with no need to be split into three separate entities
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Don't see any real value for the extra cost
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	dont want increased council rates happy with current service levels like access to all inner west services (eg libraries)
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Due to the costs involved with de-amalgamation

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Duplication of services and increased costs Happy with inner west council Hasn't been long enough to gain further efficiency Cost of living is going up and young people will be affected most Deamalgamation is driven by nostalgia
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	easier financial management of facilities such as marrickville library and ashfield pool unity of services such as garbage collection possibility of more unified policies on public transit and encouraging biking
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Economies of scale Ashfield Council was poor There are too many Councils in the state and the more successful ones are the larger ones Smaller Councils can't attract good staff
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Economies of scale Council needs to stick to basic services only and expunge all ancillary and unnecessary services
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Economies of scale enable better services Not worth the cost of de-amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Economies of scale Very complementary areas Need to give minimum 10 years to try
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Economies of scale. The three councils were too small, Inner West council is a good size to still deliver local services but large enough to have the infrastructure to support the community in an efficient way
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Efficiencies and costs Talking to staff who do not want to split and enjoy having coworkers, when split they would not Some benefits and changes since amalgamated are better
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Efficiencies gained from amalgamation would be lost Our similarities and small geographic area suited amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Efficiencies of a merged council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Efficiency
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Efficiency Better services Right size for a metro council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Efficiency gains would be lost More costly to run three councils Costly to revert back Corruption opportunities increased Diminished ability to match macro and micro planning or have influence over State
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Efficiency in merged approach
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Efficiency Inner West brand Greater profile from larger community Suburb identify has not been harmed

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Efficiency of a larger Council and a broader view of problems and solutions
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Efficiency of services and cost structure. There are too many levels of government Local government should stick to local affairs and not involve itself in politics. A council dedicated to local affairs will not pursue non local government matters and waste ratepayers money.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Efficiency savings with the delivery of services that also result in cost savings or the ability for funds to be spent on other improvements. I grew up in Brisbane so am used to large /mega councils.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Enjoy access to wider network of resources.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Enjoy the benefit of council rates reduction
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Enough money has been wasted amalgamating the councils, please don't waste any more of our money de-amalgamating it. Such a waste.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Excellent experience with council since amalgamation. Don't see any reason to lose advantages of scale (cost efficiency) when service levels are good quality. Wasted time effort and resources that could be devoted to solving more important issues - environment and restoring arts! Complete waste of financial resources and unnecessary distraction. Current system is working well. Can't be held ransom by old timers wanting "the way things were" when amalgamated council is efficient and highly functional at lower cost.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Excellent service across the 3 old councils. Sharing of community assets. Improved services eg libraries, new pools, new childcare centres Great improvement in the parks, the dog park and tempe park in particular Great customer services
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Exogenous waste of money with identical service offices performing the the same function. Standardisation across areas is important and maintaining a central council is important.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Expense
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Expense that has already been incurred and the unnecessary expense to return to prior 2016 Why change Can not see the benefits I am content with the large area I am part of
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	expensive and wasteful to reverse the amalgamation after the event Dont need duplication of services. We dont need more local councilers Will increase costs to residents

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Expensive to de-amalgamate Do not want to lose additional services
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Expensive to retrofit Limits service delivery, ie waste services efficiency, FOGO rolls out Economy of sis, more efficient administration, less politicians (councillors)
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Extra cost and less efficiency
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Financial sense Continuing a historic trend Makes political sense Rationalisation of services Local equity and inclusion
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Firstly, why was the question even asked? Who put the idea forward? I consider it a gross waste of money and resources.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Focus should be on improving the effectiveness of Council rather than trying to revert to the past. The previous Council was quite disfunctional, with the Greens in particular refusing to accept the outcomes of decisions made at Council meetings and continually re-raising issues at subsequent meetings. The 'Yes' campaigners continually misstated the Council finances in an attempt to sway the vote in their favour The costs of de-amalgamation will be significant, and contrary to the argument put forward by the 'Yes' campaigners will not be free to the IWC; with those campaigners (deliberately?) misunderstanding the impacts of the costs being funded by s620 grants.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Foolish idea!
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	for economies of scale plus i think the separate councils are aligned socially and socioeconomically.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	For my fitness I walk regularly , and one day one of my walks cover from 20 kms to kms over a 5 12 hour's , since our area joined and became Inner West I have found the foot paths have improved and are cleaner, the amount of water bubblers installed save me carry my heavy water supply . The cooks river area improved. And as Centrelink is my support an extra rate increase would become a struggle for no benefit's to me.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	For the most part our services have vastly improved with amalgamation and the library has been very well kept as a result of amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Forgot to vote but would have chosen this option. Economies of scale make sense. Have been happy with council communication. Didn't experience the deamalgamated council.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Further costs my council fees pay for, for zero benefit Stop fussing with merging/demerging and get on with your job

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	General running is better and more unified. Less bureaucratic tangles. More efficient garbage pick up. Lower rates. Better management of green spaces, tree planting etc
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Generally the services provided by the current council format are better, faster, more flexible, and cheaper than before. Street tree plantings are better, rubbish removal services are better.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Good experience with the amalgamated council; more initiatives than before - e.g. promotion of solar for strata; food recycling; Economies of scale Fewer councillors Better services in the previous Ashfield council than before amalgamation (e.g. verge mowing)
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Good services and benefits of larger council vs cost
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Greater benefit for all if remains amalgamated
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Happy with Council services See benefit in bigger council area - more resources and services Cost of de-amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Happy with de amalgamation, efficiency gains, there has been no drop in services, don't want to go backwards by deamalgamation, support smaller government
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Happy with Inner West Council Happy with the leadership Economies of scale
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Happy with Inner West council service
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Happy with it the way it is Increased rates if it happens
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Happy with new council Believe gains & links in economies of scale Think inner west council good for all inner west areas As long as co-operation remains strong
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Happy with the current Council in terms of organic bins, regular informative newsletters Don’t see the benefit of de-amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Happy with the way things are being one big council. Having memberships like the aquatic centre being part of multiple centres.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Have access to better services with the amalgamation, don’t want to go back
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Have been happy with services of inner west council The suburbs under the inner west council have similar needs needs Positive feeling of being in a wider community

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Have seen benefits of amalgamation through improved services e.g. Libraries, waste recycling, events across the who inner west LGA Increased costs to de-amalgamate. Higher wage and councillor costs Poorer economies of scale with 3 smaller councils Smaller voice to NSW state govt
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Having read the case for/against, I beleive the current structure is best; given potential benefits vs. costs/negative consequences of de-amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	High cost for little benefit Waste of council attention that could be spent on more important things
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	High cost of deamalgamation will be imposed on the community to benefit councillors (who will have more spots with more councils)
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	High costs for little rewards.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Higher council rates Higher number of councilers Increased bureaucracy Increased disruption to council procedures Reduced cohesion across inner west
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I abstained as i didn’t know enough about the issue but it's not a response option
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I am able to make use of various well-being services offered by IWC across all areas We were able to enjoy COVID lockdown writhin all of these areas as one LGA Ashfield did not deliver as a smaller council As a amalgamated LGA there are a lot of shared services on offer Great waste of money to deamalgamate
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I am happy with the benefits that come from a larger council. The next 2 years will be wasted undoing all the good work that already has happened. Very annoyed at my fellow residents who voted for deamalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I am happy with the current innerwest council service By having one council covering Leichhardt, Marrickville & Ashfield keeps council costs down as there is no duplication or tripling of positions.endering for services is cheaper etc etc There will be a huge cost to go back to 3 independent councils for example all street signage will have to be changed back after the huge cost of the current street signage It will be an absolute waste of council money causing a big increase in council rates & given the current cost of living, increased rates will just add to the cost of living in the innerwest Whilel the amalgamation cost a lot of money, de-emalgamation will cost much more given all costs have increased & we are now in a recession

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I am happy with the current set up Improved services under Inner West Is working fine as it is
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I am happy with the improvements from amalgamation There is not a strong case for de-amalgamation I use the combined aquatic and gym facilities There is increased costs to residents and loss of employment due to de-amalgamation I believe I am well represented by councillors of the innerwest council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I am satisfied with current service levels of the Inner West Council and don't believe the case for de-amalgamation is strong enough.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I am satisfied with the current level of service and representation I don't feel less represented by council De-amalgamation would increase council rates
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I am satisfied with the current services provided & don’t want to see additional costs incurred.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I am very happy with inner west council and think it wpuld be a huge waste of money to deamalgamate.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I am very happy with the job the the amalgamated councils acheived. I like the reduction in rates. I feel very well looked after.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I am very satisfied with the inner west council. Our family has access to a wider range of services e.g multiple libraries and pools. I have not experienced a decline in any services. The inner west council provides better economies of scale, allowing a higher proportion of rates to be spent on services that benefit residents rather than administrative overheads.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I am yet to be convinced the idea has a viable business case
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I believe it will be costly to de-amalgamate both in the short and long-term. We have spent enough amalgamating.We have benefited in some way from the amalgamation eg: we have excellent library services throughout the 3 municipal areas. I think we can benefit some more by staying together. ices
No – do not support de-amalgamation	I believe most councils are too small to be efficient and to consistently maintain probity.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I believe most councils are too small to be efficient and to consistently maintain probity.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I believe the Inner West is a cohesive community, and the IW Council area reflects that Service provision over the IW council area in the last few years has been incredible. For example, i love the newly coordinated library system (i can be a member of multiple IW libraries, order a book to borrow from Ashfield and pick up at Marrickville for example). I also love the council takeover of all IW swimming pools from private providers. I think IWC could do with more councillors for better democratic representation. However, i think the more fundamental issue is that councillors are paid such a low stipend that there is no way someone of working age could only work at council. This results in most councillors working full-time alongside their council duties. How can they possibly devote the time and energy to council that is needed? At the low rate of pay, we can't get councillors who would be excellent but aren't able to work a part time and fu The merger is done now, on balance I don't think the cost of demerging is remotely worth it.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I believe the services have improved greatly since amalgamation.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I believe the three smaller councils would have to be much less efficient and than IWC
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I believe we e I believe we need a financially strong and stable council to address aging infrastructure and increasing population density issues
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I can’t see how smaller councils can be more effective or efficient I felt there was soft pressure by the electoral staff to vote for deamalgamation (nothing illegal but it was clear why they thought it was ‘important’ and what their views were) Cost efficiencies. Roads are terrible. How can a smaller council do more- it doesn’t make sense Innovation. Sure there is a margin of bureaucracy in a larger council but that also feeds innovation Transparency. We need more. I have seen poor leadership by the mayor (weighing in publicly when he shouldn’t) I think a bit more scale can reduce the proximity of elected members’ interests (positive media) and council responsibilities (fairness and due process).
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I cannot see any need to break apart something that is already established and working fine. Deamalgamation is a complete waste of money. The character and dynamic of an area can be managed and influenced through the existing wards. Deamalgamating to create replica jobs for staff is a foolish thing to do.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I consider there is greater efficiencies in a larger council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I did not have sufficient information to persuade me that the benefits of de-amalgamating outweigh the costs. With the cost benefits analysis

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
	available, I am now persuaded that the costs significantly outweigh the benefits and should proceed.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I did not think it would work
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I did not want the amalgamation in the first place. But, having gone down that road, spent money do to so and dealt with teething problems and morale problems amongst Council staff, I decided that we had "made our bed" and should "lie in it" rather than spending more money and suffering further poor staff morale.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I didn't actually get to vote because the AEC took a long time to recognise where I lived and to show that on my record. However I would've voted to not de-amalgamate as the service I've experienced so far from inner west council has been good. I also think starting a process of taking apart what's working and took time to put together probably isn't worth it.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I didn't see the point of de amalgamation since so much was put into amalgamation and there would therefore be massive expense and upheaval in going back to have it was previously
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I didn't support amalgamation however now it has been implemented we should stick with it until the benefits have at least been realised. De-amalgamating would be an expensive mess.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I didn't want almagamation in the first place, but I don't want to waste any more council time or money on this issue.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I didn't want the merger originally, but now I don't want a repeat of the schemozzle that occurred with amalgamation - new, inexperienced, staff; confusion over services etc. The new Council is doing well and, notwithstanding what the draft report says, is achieving some economies of scale and can provide better services. Ashfield Council was too small - could not attract top staff, could not provide the best facilities, could not always get the best calibre of representatives (although many Councillors were great!). The additional ongoing expense of de-amalgamating will mean significant hikes to rates at the very time when cost of living pressures are hitting many.. It is unlikely that small councils will be able to meet the requirements of climate action.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I disagreed with amalgamation, but I haven't been convinced by the arguments for de-amalgamating. I would prefer to see that money spent on making the inner west more pedestrian and cyclist friendly, for example.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I do not believe it is needed and it will be a very expensive exercise with no benefit to the community. The main thing will be more councillors

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
	(would be politicians) which is a waste of money, increases risks of corruption and unnecessary
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I do not support wasting millions of dollars to de-amalgamate the councils. The loss of economies of scale will result in higher costs and poorer services.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I do not think it will benefit the Inner West, especially where I live in Leichhardt. The current system is fine. Also I do not wish to pay higher rates! That's ridiculous in the current situation in the world. Please leave it the way it is!
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I do not want to see a significant increase in my annual rates, estimated to be up to $471 per year, because of some perceived 'identity crisis' or old concerns the council was forcibly merged. That's the past, look to the future and stop wasting money and time trying to undo what has been a beneficial merger. The question asked in the non-binding poll was too simplistic to encapsulate the full scale of what is seeking to be undertaken. As the Morrison Low draft report shows, ratepayers are looking to triplicate services in the same area by breaking the council back up. This is wasteful and an emotional folly based solely on feelings rather than reality. It is estimated in the report not only that rates may rise by up to $471 on average per year, but that this will cost up to $232.8 million over 20 years. Despite the Local Government Act requiring the State Government cover these costs, there is no clarity on what this precisely means. For example, should the cost covering only extend to the reverted boundaries of the councils and the cost of the first election, ongoing costs will eventually be picked up by the ratepayers. This is again an unacceptable propositio Elections also cost money, and each Local Government Election is paid for by the local council, as are the salaries of staff, remuneration of councillors, services and contracts. Residents of the current Inner West Council would have tripled this by completing the demerger, an own-goal to be paid for by the future residents. The disingenuous campaign by proponents of the demerger may seek to increase the number of councillors for their own purposes, seeking to have greater numbers of councillors and positions available to further micromanage the daily services and lives of residents. The geographic size of the three former councils mean that in order to maintain service quality such as waste collection will either be more expensive due to separate contracts, or if the three councils collaborate for these types of services, then why d
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I do want to waste money on de-amalgamation. The process has already been costly. Preparing a case will cost more. The likelihood of success is low. I think th amalgamation itself was a waste of money and was done for political gain but I think it has worked reasonable well. I don't see the need for large numbers of councillors.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I don’t think it is worth the cost I prefer a united council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I don’t want to leave the inner west council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I dont agree with it Bigger council is better No issue with council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I don't feel that de-amalgamating would improve services - all it would create is higher rates and more unnecessary bureacracy I also felt that the 2021 poll was positively worded to encourage people to vote for deamalgamation, as it didn't include anything about the higher rates in the question.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I don't see any advantages to it. It's a waste of money The council is a good size as it is
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I don't see the benefits of de-amalgamating
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I don't think it will deliver any benefits, will come at great cost and duplicate a lot of services
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I feel it's working fine as it is.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I feel the council is doing a good job. It is a waste of resources to have 3 separate councils - with all the extra councillors, offices, staff and equipment
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I find the larger council is far more efficient than the former Leichhardt Council. Marrickville council was the only council that had a credit balance in their books at the time of amalgamation Also a lot funds have been expended on the amalgamation so it might as well go ahead.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I found the service I got from Inner West was better than from Leichhardt. Logically, the combined council should be more efficient . To spend money on reversing the amalgamation is wasteful and pointless
No – do not support de-amalgamation	I have been satisfied with the amalgamation and believe to deamalgamate is a waste of time and money.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I have lived in many LGA's and I find Inner West great well maintained parks and gardens
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I have not been provided with any proof of actual benefit to de-amalgamation besides vague promises of better local management Understanding that I was not a resident during the amalgamation, I feel like this is purely an emotional response to the forced amalgamation,

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
	combined with an anti-government sentiment as a result of the pandemic lockdowns
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I have noticed very little difference in the way council operates since amalgamation and I think it would be a complete waste of money to de-amalgamate. I also note that the way the question was worded in the poll on December 4 was confusing and could have resulted in an incorrect result.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I haven't seen sufficient evidence that deamalgamation will address the shortcomings of the current administration. I would sooner see the money cited for deamalgamation spent on improving the environment of our local community.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I identify as "Inner West" The amalgamated Council is working well De-amalgamation would be a waste of rate payers money
No – do not support de-amalgamation	I know that normally a bigger organisation would yield cheaper and more efficient services. I realise it looks like it hasn't worked, but that is an "of course it hasn't worked" situation. Asking people who are invested in their own job and importance to justify their value and how to save is ridiculous. You need outside professionals (not these so called 'Consultants and Advisors' who have never done a real day of work in their life) to step in and decide how to amalgamate each section efficiently – WITHOUT the reservations of friendship or hurting feelings.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I know that normally a bigger organisation would yield cheaper and more efficient services. I realise it looks like it hasn't worked, but that is an "of course it hasn't worked' situation. Asking people who are invested in their own job and importance to justify their value and how to save is ridiculous. You need outside professionals (not these so called 'Consultants and Advisers' who have never done a real day of work in their life to step in and decide how to amalgamate each section efficiently - WITHOUT the reservations of friendship or hurting feelings.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I like IWC
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I like the amalgamated council. I do not want money wasted deamalgamating. I think our local government will be more successful advocating for residents as a larger council than as three separate entities.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I like the idea of efficiencies of scale, which I think are best delivered by reducing duplication of services. Deamalgamation just brings back duplication and thus waste. I support the idea of separating entities that don't belong together (e.g former Yugoslavia into its component countries) but in the case of councils, there is simply no need and no benefit in doing it.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I myself am a public servant. During my postgraduate degree in public policy and governance I have learned about NPM and believe the Inner West Council has benefitted from this approach, not to the detriment of residents. I believe that reversing amalgamation is a lengthy and costly process that will not outweigh the benefits some may see.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I oppose the waste of funds and the inefficiency of returning to smaller councils Smaller councils have a tendency to become excessively narrow in their focus and ignore how their area fits within the city. An example of this even in the present format would be opposing Westconex without having to consider the implications for people outside our narrow area. I am concerned that de-amalgamation will lead to even more narrow focus. More councils allows for more passing the buck. I already live on the boundary of two councils and problems with the drainage on the dividing street get passed backwards and forwards with no-one taking responsibility. Longer term residents tell me that it has always been like that. I wouldn't wish more people into this situation. Less council boundaries should facilitate a better cohesion of service.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I opposed amalgamation. But I think the amalgamated council works reasonably well and it is not worth the upheaval of changing again.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I predicted that de-amalgamation would not only cost money and increase rates, it would lead to inefficiencies seem with the pre-merged councils. Your risk assessment proves I, and many others were right that it is a ridiculous idea. I would recommend running the poll again now the risks are fully known, including the costs to residents of IWC, and the minimal benefits identified. The results would likely be very different once people understand what they're actually being asked to register an opinion on. I disagree with submitting the business case in the first place, and engaging a number of consultants to tell you this is a bad idea is a waste of money.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I preferred Marrickville council but will Soon be moving to Ashfield and have Heard bad things about the old Ashfield council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I previously worked for many years in government and it was impossible to do effective business in the local government sector because of the sheer number of LGAs in NSW.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I really like the way the Inner West council is operating. I think that the more progressive Marrickville Council has helped Ashfield to become more progressive and a better place to live. I think if we de-merge, a lot of that progress could be lost.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I remember when Leichhardt council was the worst. The merger was a good thing. Why go back?

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I saw an improvement in services in my local area following the amalgamation of the councils. De-amalgamation is costly and ultimately less efficient. Given the main reason for local councils is to provide services the elimination of duplication seems logical and a better use of my rates. Evidence in the former Ashfield Council suggests fewer counsellors overall is a good thing. I was angered at the wording of the poll, it favoured de-amalgamation. Given the innerwest is an overwhelming Labor/Greens stronghold the wording invoking the Lib/Nat state government immediately slanted the question.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I see it as a waste of tax payer money. It is ludicrous to consider both the $ cost and time away from other important matters. There are efficiencies of scale achieved with the current model, and if it was a corporate decision, not a political one, I don't believe it would go ahead.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I strongly oppose de-amalgamation. It will be very costly for resident owners, result in poorer services and less economies of scale, and the inner west has one identity. For example, I live in Summer Hill but do my shopping and exercise in Leichhardt which would become a different LGA if the proposal was adopted. Increased council rates Poorer economies of scale Poorer services Inner West has one identity and community feel. Arbitrary council borders from de-amalgamation don't make sense
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I support a larger council as better able to provide services in a cost efficient way. I like being able to have access to a broader range of libraries. And even if that wasn't the case, reversing this change once made seems like a large upfront cost for dubious benefits.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I think a more centralized management structure is far more cost effective We are able to share resources across the areas
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I think amalgamation was logical and economically sensible. . The current levels of representation is more than adequate. A vocal minority have engaged in a scare campaign to agitate for reversal.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I think an enormous amount of work has been done to amalgamate, even if we disagreed at the time. It would be incredibly disruptive to de-amalgamate again. I understand the principle, but i think there is a practical aspect too. Deamalgamation risks another 4 years of disruption to services.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I think it would be a huge waste of time, money and resources. We should focus on delivering better services through the current council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I think it would be an insane use of resources to deamalgamate and an awful waste of resources ongoing to operate 3 separate councils.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I think it's a waste of time and money to go backwards. It's been done now! Let's just move forward.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I think larger councils are more efficient. The amalgamation has been successful in my opinion.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I think that it will cost A LOT more to de-amalgamate than predicted and I don’t think that the costs will be 100% covered by the state government as people think it will. It is a waste of money when that money could be spent on improving the existing council. To me, there is no point de-amalgamating, hiring lots of staff in each LGA to do duplicate jobs and lose all economies of scale on services such as waste.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I think the efficiencies of amalgamation outweigh deamalgamtion (which appear to be politically motivated only) I have been very happy with the provision of services provided by the Inner West Council. There is no clear operational driver to change.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I think there are benefits to an amalgamated council - better shared pools, libraries, arts and heritage staff etc..
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I think there are better advantages of scale by amalgamating, costs to ratepayers should be lower
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I think this is a waste of the ratepayers money ? What true benefits are the ratepayers going to get? The way the question was framed was ridiculous, it was an open question without any details of the costs involved, how could ratepayers be expected to answer that question without much more detail?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I think we're stronger together.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I thought Inner West council would have to foot the entire bill I also thought it would cause another disruption to the running of councils and orovisions of services as the new structures were put into place. Thus cisting more than the benefits w hich might follow On the other hand deamalgamayion would provide more jobs even if the cost was higher.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I value the efficiency achieved by and the improved performance of the amalgamated Council I value the identity of the Inner West and the improved profile created by the amalgamation The larger amalgamated Council has more capacity to stand up for the Inner West than a series of smaller areas.
No – do not support de-amalgamation	I voted for continuing amalgamation because of the intrinsic economies of scale and I don’t want an increase of rates or the inconvenience.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I voted for continuing amalgamation because of the intrinsic economies of scale and I don't want an increase of rates or the inconvenience.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I voted no because council currently delivers to a high standard. The attitudes of the 3 historical council areas are well aligned and outcomes have been improved relative to the old Leichhardt council which I reside in. Marginally more tailored outcomes for Leichhardt balanced against the business case identified cost increases are not worth it. I feel strongly about that fact - we need to move on from the past now, we have a system that works Business case costings were not made public at the time of the vote. They were always going to be substantially more and that was plain to anyone who thought about it. I believe if these Business case costings were alongside the ballot paper the result would not have been over 50%. Council must govern for all and make decisions in the best interests of rate payers. Simply the benefit outcomes do not outweigh the costs and council must be ultimately held accountable for decisions. This is a key decision. Households are under economic pressure and this is an unnecessary cost increase and imposition on households
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I voted no because it would be an unneeded waste of money and resources that can be better spent fixing roads, footpaths and green spaces I voted no because I am satisfied with councils performance I voted no because the yes vote seems like be based on elite suburb snobbishness rather than council services I voted no because I like accessing all services across the inner west council. Especially pools and libraries. I voted no to amalgamation because its a ridiculous waste of money that would only benefit people who want to be councillers.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I voted to not support deamalgamation. I am very satisfied with level of inner west council services and feel the needs of Ashfield residents are well met. I do support paying higher levies for increased wages for same level of service.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I want to stay IWC
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I was against the amalagamation to begin with but once it happened I can see that it's working quite well. I see more disadvantages in deamalagamation with regards to cost. It would also be very disruptive.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I was disappointed in the way local council members aggressively campaigned for a proposal that would financially benefit them, with little to no opposition. This is an issue that should be assed by a third party, and not people who have a vested interest. The Inner We3st council has been doing a great job, and we should be promoting inclusivity as a broad Inner West council, instead of dividing our community There are already too many people in cozy local council jobs doing very little to earn taxpayer money. I've sat in on the online meetings, they're an absolute farce. We do not need more representation, we need more efficient use of funds towards things that matter.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I was happy with the services provided by Marrickville Council, and I believe that a super council would lead to a rationalisation of services at the expense of our diverse localities and needs.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I was initially against amalgamation but the councils have wasted enough money on it already and personally I have only seen positive things since the merger. It's time to stop spending money on this issue and put it where it will do the best for the community.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I was not aware of the benefits of de-amalgamation so it seemed unnecessary
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I was not happy with the former Marrickville Council so welcomed the combined council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I was not in favour of amalgamation and saw it as a disgusting attempt by the NSW government to reduce opposition to Westconnex. However, now that Westconnex is a fait accompli we are being offered the opportunity to deamalgamate. If there was a strong case for amalgamation what has changed now to suggest the our best interests would be served by de-amalgamating? I think it was a waste of resources to amalgamate and it will be a further wast of resources to de-amalgamate. Furthermore, there is no strong economic
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I was not in gfavour of amalgamation but think now that it will be too costly and time consuming to go back to the original councils. Having said that I liked that I lived with a Green controlled council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I was not on favour of forced amalgamation but now that it is complete it would be too expensive and a waste of money to go back. Current services are acceptable and issues can and should be dealt with u nder current structure. Deamalgamation would be throwing good money after bad
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I was opposed to the amalgamation as it seemed a pointless political move which would cost a lot of money. It cost a lot of money to amalgamate, and it will cost even more (in all likelihood to demerge). Plus people lost their jobs as result of the amalgamation and the clock can't be turned back on that. I really don't want more money being spent to pick apart and buy new computer systems, to require staff to reapply for jobs, or be made redundant, to spend money on new council elections... the list goes on an on, when we need more money spent on public libraries (most are very small buildings) and on parks (keeping them public and available) as well as on other things

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I work for Council and also live in the LGA, I did not want the forced amalgamation to go ahead in the first place. It has been a very traumatic experience as an employee to go through, but now that we are IWC I do not want to go through the trauma of de-amalgamating. I think the new IWC has made the best of a bad situation. We need to keep moving forward now to create and maintain our new LGA identity and to push back against state government control/demands as a bigger and better local government.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I would like council to focus on improving the local area instead the admin required to de-amalgamate I don't see how 3 separate organisations can get more done than one cohesive unit We've already spent time amalgamating and I don't see the point in wasting more to undo it
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I wouldn't have voted to amalgamate, but if it's not broken why change? The de-amalgamation is going to take up a lot of energy that otherwise could go towards ordinary council business. I've lived in Ashfield and Leichhardt LGAs before the amalgamation, and I now live in an area that would be part of a de-amalgamated Marrickville LGA. They're all good areas. I don't feel particularly affiliated to one or another of them - culturally there's a lot more similarities than differences.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I've had better services under amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	If it's not broken don't fix it. Effort is better put into making what we have work well rather than endlessly talking about things like de amalgamation of worse still actually doing it
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	I'm originally from Brisbane so I appreciate what a big council can do. I I love the things the inner west council has achieved, like the food recycling, the Marrickville library upgrade and Ashfield pool upgrade. I worry that kind of progress won't be possible if we demerge I have zero concerns about representation at council level. Making the ward smaller won't make it less diverse so it's a moot point
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Impact bigger than Benefit Increased cost for no return Current council is barely ok. Won't pay more for the same service Seems to be paying to hire more council people with little to no impact for the community I don't see the issue with the current council. I do see an issue with significant rate increases
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Improve the way inner west Is run by using the money needed For de-amalgamation into Services
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Improved services

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Improved services since amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Improved services since amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	In my experience such a major change is very disruptive throughout the community. The inner west council is functioning well and efficiently with seemingly no physical or financial reason to deamalgamate. Please read further on line one
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Increase in cost poorer management and downgrading of services
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Increase in rate cost to residents Lack of evidence demonstrating or predicting increase in efficiencies if de-amalgamation proceeds The notion of de-amalgamation is to increase councilor jobs and salaries and has no impact on residents
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Increase to rates to maintain 3 councils is not desirable Services are better amalgamated eg libraries Identify as being from the “Inner West”
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Increased cost No clear benefits Amalgamated council provides better scale for service provision
No – do not support de-amalgamation	Increased costs
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Increased costs as a result of deamalgamation Efficiency of services and delivery that can be achieved with scale Improved services resulted with the amalgamated council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Increased costs Disruption of services Waste of time and effort
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Increased costs I don’t need as an owner. If the efficiencies are there, let’s keep them. I like being part of the ‘inner west’
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Increased costs Reduced service levels Small councils can’t afford costs of single services and lose economies of scale
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Increased costs to deamalgamate Reduced staff levels and less professional Poorer services if deamalgamate Increased risks if deamalgamate
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Increased overhead
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Increased rates Happy with current service

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Increased rates Service level loss
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Increasing cost and unnecessary overhead for smaller suburbs
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Inefficiencies Have not provided enough reasoning to increase residents rates for no perceived benefit Why? Provide a business case against the original outlined council amalgamation business case When are the perceived benefits of amalgamation supposed to hit residents and councils? There is an adjustment period, are we still in it?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Inefficiency- more councils and politicians just add costs
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	inefficient motivated by spite because of forced merger, rather than reviewing justification
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Inefficient use of resources Doubling / tripling of service provisions Waste of rate payers money Over capitalisation of public assets Waste of efficiency gains made
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Inner West Council is doing a good job
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Inner west Council are doing a great job De-amalgamation will be disruptive and expensive
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Inner West Council had the opportunity to achieve significant economies of scale with resultant efficiencies in the delivery of services. This was thwarted by the anti-amalgamation people within Council itself. These economies could be achieved still. The fact that Council has failed to implement amalgamation properly and quite possibly bungled a number of matters, does not detract from the obvious benefits which can be achieved still. The only people to benefit from any de-amalgamation will be "wanna-be Councillors" and"wanna-be senior managers" I do not see why residents should pay to provide them with career opportunities. Most importantly, amalgamation should have solved the stupidity of splitting commercial precincts with main roads as the dividing line between LGAs. That it did not is a sad reflection on Councillors and senior management. To reinstate such boundaries will compound the stupidity.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Inner west council has Given better service than when we had a Ashfield council. I do not want to go back to the council that we had before.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Inner west council has provided much better services than either Leichhardt or Marrickville Councils IWC has focussed more on genuine council issues IWC online services are much better

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Inner West Council have sent out a 'case for de-amalgamation'. It states that de-amalgamation will provide 'some perceived service level improvements. There would be no actual improvements. Service levels improved since amalgamation. The document states that council rates and costs will increase by more than double if there were a de-merger. There are still libraries, great libraries in fact, in Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville. There are no differences in the policies, needs, etc between these th
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Inner West council is doing a good job and the cost to deamalgamate is a waste
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Inner west council is much more efficient Rate increases
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Inner west is a more powerful Council with a seat at the table due to its size I identify with Inner West Council Services and the ability to provide meaningful infrastructure are better
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It costs to dealmagate and no change in service
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It didn't make financial sense to deamalgamate We'd just amalgamated the benefits were yet to be realized
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It does not make sense why this council can not be efficient. It seems a waste of money to de-amalgate it. It must be people managing it incompetent!
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It has been working better since the amalgamation Council needs to get with the program and stick with the changes Stop wasting money trying to go back to pre-amalgamation times.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It hasn't affected me so far
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It is a fait accompli/done I do not want any more money Spent in this. Leave it as it is. It is working and that is all that Matters
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It is a stupid waste of money and I can't believe you have put it on the table It makes no financial sense It will offer no practical improvement and is a political stunt It is very disappointing that it is being considered It very wasteful to then waste all the new signage, branding etc
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It is a waste of money and time and means starting again from scratch. You can't unscramble the egg, let's focus on improving outcomes
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It is a waste of money and time.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It is a waste of money The old councils were rife with corruption I do not want a rate rise Good elected officials are hard enough to come by, let alone multiple in multiple councils
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It is a waste of money to de-amalgamate
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It is a waste of ratepayers money to go through the exercise again. Inner west council has been functioning well thus far.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	it is a wate of funding and inefficient. Resources are constrained as is funding. It view deamalgamation as irresponsible leadership
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It is amalgamated. Working well. No need to undo what is working
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It is done now. It would be very wasteful to now deamalgamate, with no clear benefits. I wasn't all that happy with Leichhardt Council, so I don't particularly want to go back to it. Having lived in Marrickville, I know the former Marrickville Council is the best in Sydney. With amalgamation, it is good to be associated with Marrickville, even though its influence on the Leichhardt area is small.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It is irrelevant. Focus on real problems within the council area.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It is not cost efficient in the long run If you are serious about the local voice, vote to spend the money you will lose on developing a local voice session/other ways to connect with the community We have gained access to so many different areas and services with amalgamation Arguing we have lost the local voice hasn't been backed up tangibly in any argument Strategic planning affects everyone
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It is not value for money It is inefficient
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It is the responsibility of inner west councillors to work together productively and a demerger won't change that. It's not worth raising rates to cover a shortfall with no guaranteed benefits, just more funded politicians.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It is unnecessary time and expense and would lead to inefficiency in negotiations with NSW Government.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It is working now, why disrupt it all again. It will be an expensive exercise
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It just seems like a waste of time and money

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It makes absolutely 0 financial sense. I do not believe we need more counsellors, and the services provided to us at a lower cost by IWC are fantastic. De-amalgamated councils can only provide these services if our rates are MUCH higher.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It makes economic sense to amalgamate, better use of resources and purchase power Hopefully you get a higher caliber of councillors and staff at a bigger organisation On third of the number of councillors is sufficient, and hopefully of a higher caliber, previously there was a lot of deadwood Deamalgamators only want to protect their little territory Amalgamated is a stronger voice, the old Leichhardt is already 4 older councils
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It makes no sense to deamalgamate. A larger council can benefit from economies of scale and fewer overheads. Inner west council has developed a brand that is attracting more residents to the area.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It makes sense to amalgamate (even though my rates went up), more efficient allocation of resources, consolidated back office, cost savings are there but your executive team wasted the opportunity with their in-fighting
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It seems like a waste of money
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It seems that members of the council wanted this to fail so they could keep their patch. Instead of going out of their way to make it not work how about trying to make it work ? An amalgamated council should give us more effeciency - with the right people in charge. It would seem we don't have that and they are only interested in what is in it for them
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It seems the current amalgamated Council is progressing well. Leichhardt Council was insular and very difficult to deal with. There are pockets of intransigence in the tree preservation department that remains ideologically attached to tree preservation when the LGA had a small percentage of tree cover compared to the very green LGA it has become. Am hoping that the expanded LGA has a more nuanced approach to tree preservation when damage to property by very large trees in small backyards is not dismissed as ‘b Also, the cost of de-amalgamation is simply ludicrous to contemplate. I don’t support any of the arguments put forward towards de-amalgamation.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It sounded as logical a brexit to me. Massive costs incurred. More self interested politicians pushing a single policy.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It was a political point that was not thought through at the time. A larger council will provide more affordable services at a lower unit cost than a smaller council. A de-amalgamated council will either have to cut services or increase rates to maintain current service levels. A small council will be more inefficient and more political than the current sized council.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It will be costly to deamalgamate Better to focus on what can be improved It will be disruptive to council services
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It will cost a lot of money to change back. This money could be better spent making improvements to the current council structure. A de-amalgamation is a waste of money! We have access to services across all of the council area. Eg membership to all pools During lockdown a larger LGA was a great benefit. We had access to so much more green space. I don't feel that de- amalgamation is for the people. More for the ind councils and councilors to gain 'control'
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It will waste money and result in poorer services I like the "inner west" identity I enjoy services across all three previous councils, such as public pools & libraries being on the same card
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It will waste time and money, and distract the council from more valuable work. Inner West Council could be a strong progressive voice in Sydney. Three smaller councils won't be able to do that The inner west is a logical community to have a single council. We're more likely to get reporting on a larger council from the media, helping residents understand what is happening and holding the council to account when necessary. Smaller councils are less likely to be able to stand up to the state government
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It works now so why waste time and money to go back
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It would be a complete waste of ratepayers and taxpayers money to de-amalgamate. This focus must be on making IWC work effectively and efficiently for the people of the Inner West.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It would be a huge waste of resources to de-amalgamate now. The inner west council is functioning well. I don't want an increase in rates.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It would be a waste of money. The merged council has delivered efficiencies. There has been more capital investment in the LGA than under the previous structure.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It would be a waste of time and resources It would reintroduce increased admin overheads Less equality across suburbs
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It would be an enormous waste of rate-payers money. The resulting councils would be financially unstable - rates would likely go up The efficiency of running services would be must greater and a better outcome if remained amalgamated
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It would be difficult to unscramble the amalgamation and there would be increased costs, But since the vote i have become disillusioned by the money spent on non core services. I now would support deamalgamation, smaller council and more effort on core services.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It would be expensive not benefit all residents and move on with the future. I think it's politically motivated to get more councillors
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It would be inefficient and we'd miss out on initiatives which require significant investment.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It would cost far too much money The smaller the Council the more petty the issues become. Look forwards and not backwards.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It would cost more
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It would make things worse
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It's a complete waste of resources and money going back It won't provide any better council services Rates won't be cheaper under a de-amalgamated system The State Govt is unlikely to approve the de-amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It's a huge waste of money that doesn't bring any meaningful benefits, in my opinion.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It's a vanity project pushed by those with too much time and not enough sense Appalling waste of time and money. Let's just make the council work. Don't want to increase the number of politicians.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It's a waste of Council funds to demerger
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It's a waste of money going de-amalgamating and can't see it leading to better services. We have seen better services in our area under the amalgamated council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It's a waste of money Just more organized We don't need more councilors
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It's a waste of money My rates were meant to go down. I would like lower rates!
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It's a waste of taxpayers money and councils time to go through the whole de-amalgamation process. This is time and money that could be invested in other areas.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It's already done, why undo it all - I'd rather the millions it'd cost to go to the fixing roads.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It's bad
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It's counterproductive and overly expensive. It is not representative of the will of the community

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It’s crazy to undo the efficiency gains that we have made with amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It’s done. Seems a waste of money to go back now.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It’s fine as-is, and would be a waste of my money to deamalgamate.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It’s just stupid to have all these little fiefdoms in 2022
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It’s more costly Our IWC does a great job already
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It’s more streamlined keeping amalgamated More community vibe for inner weat Efficient to keep all suburbs in tow Gives the little suburbs a bigger voice
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Its a dumb idea driven by emotional or self serving arguments Amalgamation brought efficiencies and service improvements (mostly) Representation level was hopeless before amalgamation, so it is no worse with less councillors.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It's a waste of money and resources - what's done is done and now we need to get on with more important things.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It's a waste of resources to deamalgamate The amalgamated council is working well
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It's a waste of time and money Let's stop arguing about this and just focus on actually supporting the community
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It's a waste of time and money. I don't expect the amalgamated or seperate councils to be perfect - going backwards does not making things better. Please use the money that would have been spent on de-amalgamation on finding and implementing the best of both small and large councils. Let's not live in the past - use the learnings of small and large to take opportunity to make the best possible council for all.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It's a waste of time, money & resources. When staff were cut from the council's, The experience held by those members was lost
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It's an appalling waste of rate payers money which could be spent doing something meaningful like libraries or infrastructure
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Its done, please move on

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Its done, we need to focus on improving services not wasting more money on the process. The inner west has a distinct character that feels connected now in a way it didnt before.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It's done. Move on. Our lives will be no richer or better following a demerger It is a colossal waste of money It has unified the inner west, providing a collective identity
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It's expensive and unnecessary. Satisfied with Inner West Council.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It's expensive There's no way the state govt will agree to pay for it, council will have to I love some of the services outside my ward, eg Marrickville Library If it ain't broke, don't fix it. I haven't seen any good reason to deamalgamate other than nostalgia
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	its not a good use of money it will distract council from its more important purposes there is an additional cost (rates will be higher with de-amalgamation or services lower) I dont believe the state government will cover all the costs, as there are hidden costs that cant be covered even if the state covers the costs, we are still using public money which is better spent on other things like transport, nurses, teachers and climate
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It's not a priority and I don't believe it will happen. We should focus on making IWC work as well as it can for residents, rather than relitigate council mergers. I don't want council to expend huge amounts of time and money on fighting to demerge, and risk going back into administration (meaning no elected representation for potentially years), when it should be spending its efforts working for residents on the things that matter - getting the basics right and advocating for the issues most residents care about
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	It's outrageous that after all the effort and waste of ratepayers money and state tax dollars to go though a amalgamation that emwe are now even considering wasting more money to de-amalgamate an levy additional ongoing costs onto ratepayers. We definately do not need more Councilors or additional administrative costs,. In any case there was no decline in service due to amalgamation and no reason services will improve by de amalgamation. It apoears to be nothing more than a politically motivated exercise will n
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	IWC as amalgamated is a good representation of the Inner West Combined services are great Increased efficiency in service provision Balanced approach of representation at a scale that is not too hyper-local but still representative of local interests

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	IWC can negotiate better value service contracts because it is bigger. I see larger projects occurring since amalgamation. More flexibility and hence effective use of people, plant and equipment. IWC can pay and retain human resources with better knowledge, skills and experience (a challenge in a strong labour market) IWC is more likely to develop the procedures and decision frameworks required to improve subsidiarity. IWC is making great progress in seeking the voice of the customer through community groups and local matters forums. The IWC region has a similar demographic and psychographic.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	IWC has been amalgamated for quite some time now and have reached a stable state after the pain of the change. The financial burden of the de-amalgamation activity is pure vain profligacy. The de-amalgamation models do not offer value for money. The motivation for de-amalgamation is clearly just to spite the LNP gov for forcing the amalgamation, but hurt pride is not a valid business case.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	IWC is more efficient with economy of scale. I want less government not more
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	IWC is working well as a merged Council, services are good Like having access to wider range of facilities across LGA with single service De-merger would be an absolute waste of money, irrespective of who foots the bill Coordinated strategic urban planning across the larger LGA is important to achieve good outcomes Larger Council has greater political sway on city-wide issues
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Just get on with doing your job. It's been 7 years. It will cost too much to go back and it's a waste of time and resources which are better spent on doing what council should actually be doing. Town planning and upgrades to transport for eg. De amalgamation means more costs and less services!!! Why would you go back??
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Just pick up the bins and manage parks and playgrounds. None of the rest matters.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Lack of necessity Waste of ratepayer resources
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Large Council more efficient Diversity
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Larger councils can be more efficient and impactful. Too much management and cost with multiple small councils Need joined up thinking on climate action, cycleways and provision of amenities
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Larger council area is more sustainable and allows for optimisation of services

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Larger council better able to plan and provide critical services and policy eg disability access, eg climate change mitigation resilience and adaptation; larger councils fit better with environment protection (eg fewer councils for Cooks River makes restoration effort easier
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Larger council is more efficient use of resources Larger council gives more access to services across area like libraries Larger council should be more effective at planning for connected active and public transport across area Larger council means more consistent rules across area for planning
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Larger council organisation more Professional, better governance Efficient use of resources Lower administrative costs
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Larger Councils are more efficient (proved by the economic assessment of de-amalgamation) Larger Councils have more influence at State level Too many Councils in Sydney Smaller councils = petty fiefdoms
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Larger councils are more efficient and are able to have a more influential say in things. I worked at TfNSW for years and saw how smaller councils were routinely ignored but larger ones could have more impact. I want that for the Inner West There were clearly gaps in what different councils were good at and I saw the impact of the councils coming together and making use of those specialisations Having joined up councils enables better planning on transport issues, especially walking and biking, resulting in a more connected, complete network
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Larger councils are more efficient and less exposed to corruption.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Larger councils have efficiency of scale
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Larger LGAs allow for integrated land use and environmental management planning over a wider area.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Less efficiency with de amalgamation More politicians to fund with de amalgamation Higher rates with de amalgamation Disruption to services to de amalgamate Amalgamation has produced better public amenity outcomes
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Less efficient and costs more
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Less politicians the better,I can’t afford more rates,& things are working just fine now so why change back!
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Like larger council Shared resources (e.g. libraries) Feel represented in a larger area

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Local ward representatation and access for residents to communicate with ward councillors is satisfactory with the existing Inner West Council, so we don't need to go back to being three smaller councils with less constituents in each ward. De-amalgamation does not make financial sense, as it would be a costly process and Council would lose the economies of scale and economic efficiencies that it has gained with the amalgamation. There has been no noticeable decrease in services since the amalgamation.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Loose efficiency of services Potentially create small fiefdoms of poor quality leaders Increase costs Concerned less accountability
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Loss of efficiencies Higher rates Parochial rather than district thinking Unnecessary waste of public resources There are more pressing priorities
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Loss of jobs Harder for council to support the population It's more beneficial for the higher income earners
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Lower cost Less waste of funds for superflous council employees
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Lower council rates
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Major financial costs associated with de-amalgamation. Waste of NSW tax payers money. Satisfied with the way Council currently operates as one. The three Councils are much stronger together. Rather than resorting to de-amalgamation, the focus should shift to understanding why 62.49% of voters feel that way about the Inner West Council and look for improvements.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Makes no economic sense
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Mass increase in council cost Not relevant improvements promised
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Massive improvements since the amalgamation. Clear, polite communication from staff, roads and footpaths now being maintained, residential requests noted and actioned in a very timely manner. No cronyism.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Massive Waste of money Current council is working
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Merged council will create long term benefits, scales of efficiencies De-merger would be costly for little benefit
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Money would be wasted in another restructure which could be better spent on providing services

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Money would be wasted in the process only benefitting consultants, lawyers & the personal ambition of some individuals.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	More cost effective to have a larger Council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	More costs and fewer services does not make sense
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	More efficient amalgamated Leichhardt council was awful - too many incompetent, ideological, wannabe politicians
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	More efficient council and cost saving Less chance of corruption Stronger voice at state level More chance for bigger projects to happen. Eg. Ashfield pool rebuilt
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	More efficient to run Less overhead Consistency Less corruption
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	More efficient with combined functions and economy of scale Easier to plan infrastructure like bike lanes continuously through a bigger area Economies of scale Not a good use of money to deamalgamate Enjoy the fact inner west council is so large and can access things like libraries across the network
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	More efficient with merger Funds are better used with the merger (less duplication) There is better consistency across the merged council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	More efficient with one Council for the area
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	More expensive, less benefits
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	More money is required to employ more council reps
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	More pooled resources The areas covered have more in common than not
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	more upgrades to foorpaths/tree prunung grass cutting/reduced parking times in darling street/council cleanups an ups easier to have
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Much more efficient now, councils all nearly do the same thing.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	My view (which has been borne out by the consultants report) was that the idea of de-amalgamation was a vanity project driven by ideologues without regard to the financial implications. It was patently obvious that cost would increase as a result of the need to duplicate (or triplicate) resources to deliver the same level of services, which will ultimately cost ratepayers through either higher costs or reduced service levels. I also believe that the counsel lord responsible for putting this thought bubble to a vote of residents without investigating and spelling out these implications prior to said vote should be forced to resign in disgrace. Thus far it has cost money to hold a vote, and you're now going back to spell out the implications and asking people to vote again. Your performance makes brexit look like a triumph of public policy.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	NA
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Negative step after recent improvements in service delivery Wasted resources / scale will result in better services
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	No
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	No efficiencies to be gained Duplication of activity Greater efficiencies can me made in the amalgamated council. I do not believe the (then newly) elected council made a serious attempt to 'make the amalgamation work' as the amalgamation was forced on the Lab/Green council by the Liberal NSW government
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	No anticipated benefit of demerger Increased rates following demerger Larger council is more efficient due to economies of scale Waste of money to go back to separate councils after expense of creating amalgamated council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	No benefits Increased costs
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	No clear benefit in doing so. Increased costs. Reduced services. Seemingly driven by desires over outcomes. Greater representation means nothing if they lack funding to deliver.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	no clear benefit waste of resources deamalgamation could further empower NIMBYs
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	No compelling arguments for deamalgamation Upfront and ongoing costs of deamalgamation Claimed benefits of deamalgamation were vague and illogical
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	No interest in de-amalgamation

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	No issues with the current IWC
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	No need, current council is more efficient and cost efffective
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	No noticeable ill effects from amalgamation Obvious cost benefit to the amalgamated communities
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	No perceived benefit
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	No quantifiable benefits provided to justify the excessive costs for this. Not to mention the costs incurred to this point.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	No reason to change back when it appears to be working well. This would also cost money that could be used elsewhere.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	No tangible benefit beyond a view that it would feel nice
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	No valid reason for doing it
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Not a priority for council service delivery
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Not cost effective and unnecessary
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Not enough information is provided on the matter. It felt like the poll was orchestrated by de-amalgamation campaigners. All communication I have received or read so far only push in one direction. No rational is provided to justify such a budget increase for the marrickville council if we keep de-amalgamation vs the relatively small increase in case of de-amalgamation while as the same time spend more money in duplication all administration services? Non sens.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Not in favour of unscrambling an omellette
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Not keen
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Not needed Increases expenses Decreases efficiency
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Not worth the expense Happy with inner west council People can't afford higher rates now Being one council allows for projects like the Greenway to go ahead faster

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Not worth the money or the time.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Nothing broken, why try to fix things up.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Now that it's done it's an extra cost which I do t believe has any benefit. Not much has changed in terms of services. I also like all the IWC events, access to multiple libraries, pools etc. I like having the connection to Marrickville in particular, not just Leichhardt
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Now that we have amalgamated it would be an unconscionable waste of money to wind it back again I am sure there have been financial efficiencies achieved through amalgamation There haven't been any negatives experienced through amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Now that we have amalgamated, it is too expensive and totally wasteful to change back. The amalgamated councils can be more cost effective with administration and services.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Personally I do not think that there are clear reasons to support that there will be improvements if we go back to the previous arrangements by de-amalgamating the councils. Big costs involved in a process to move backwards. In 2022 is time to move forward. A bigger council should be stronger, more diversified, more able to listen to a multi-cultural population... There are bigger problems to solve. We need to focus on improve processes, infrastructures, parks, liveability, equipments, services... none of those require the inner-west to de-amalgamate. Potential massive waste of time, effort and money to reach a goal without significant value. A probably very confusing process for the council employees that will then affect the population.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Personally, We are currently represented by highly capable councillors who are there because they want to be there and want to deliver the best for our community. I am highly sceptical that any of the three deamalgamated councils would attract enough capable people to deliver on the same level as we currently have with inner west council and think that it would be more likely that we would dilute the capable voices with less capable single issue or cantankerous councillors who are not really there to make a diffe Personally I think that in general service delivery has improved since amalgamation, especially now that harmonisation has occurred. Professionally, as an architect regally dealing with Council staff, my experience of the amalgamated council is that i deal with more capable and consistent staff on a more regard basis, and that there is a more consistent approach to planning decisions and objectives. My experience of dealing with the former councils was that each had particular aspects to them that were not consistent or well controlled and that this slowed down the process of working with council to achieve a development approval and added cos I don't see any particularly benefit

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
	to reprinting letterhead and employing greater numbers of staff to achieve less. I would like to see what IWC is truly capable of, now that we are gamier with Covid management, have harmonised the former LGA's operations and have a stable general manager.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Pointless campaign run by aggrieved landlords in Newtown and Balmain who didn't want to share an LGA with the plebs in Ashfield and Dulwich Hill
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	pointless exercise - amalgamation has been done, to undo it will be expensive and fraught with risk the smaller the Council, the more open to corruption, in my view
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	pointless exercise for the vainglory of political people
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Potential for increased rates with de-emalgamation. Prefer efficiencies a communication with amalgamated councils Very satisfied with management Nader amalgamated council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Prefer living in a slightly larger LGA as I believe it is better for the provision of services Satisfied with the way the Inner West Council is providing services (improvements since the amalgamation) Waste of money to demerge, especially if no overwhelming benefits
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Prefer to keep costs low
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Previous Council (Leichardt) was deeply corrupt and inefficient Previous Council did not deliver an acceptable level of services Previous Council systematically neglected the Balmain peninsula Amalgamated Council has better efficiencies of scale Amalgamated Council delivers better services and a more coherent approach
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Previous council too small for economies of scale Too many councils across Sydney generally
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Rate reduction Satisfied with the current council arrangements
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Ratepayers have already paid a huge amount of money on revised services, rebranding etc. De-amalgamation would result in additional expenditure to ratepayers in reinstating those previous services, rebranding under three separate Councils etc. That money could be put to better use to the benefit of all ratepayers and residents.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Rates went down followong de-amagamation but service went up. The council seems more oaganised, comitted (and followed through) on bigger initiatives. De-amagmamation is only in the interest of councillors who

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
	want council jobs. PLEASE DO NOT DO IT!! Why would you remove a big council that charges households less and does more?!
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Rather than sending rate payers money of the recreation of 3 councils the funds should be spent on creating one well functioning united council There will be on impact on services with de amalgamation - it may reduce for the councils of Ashfield There will be an increase in staffing costs with 3 GMs and the need for Directors in each Council With limited development in the smaller councils - rates revenue will be required to be on capital projects as there will be limited contributions available
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Receive better services post amalgamation Costs of de-amalgamation Smaller councils can't survive long term
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Reduce duplication of services and administration and therefore reduce costs Maintain current rates (which would increase with de-amalgamation) Be able to stagger projects across all areas which provides better utilization of resources and efficiencies.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Reduced costs and save money and less waste less politicians
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Reduced services Cost or amalgamation LGA identity… Annandale
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Redundant costs
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Remove duplication of services Scale services / refine / improve quality Deepen council effectiveness Focus on key issues for your constituents Reduce overall cost of service
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Residents opinions were not taken into consideration A larger council deprives residents of close contact with planning and consultation Disruption, increased costs and loss of corporate knowledge on heritage and culture Diminution of distinctive local cultural identity
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Satisfied larger Council is more efficient Concerned about Council staff being re-distributed to smaller Councils Generally satisfied with services provided by amalgamated Inner West Council Do not think we need more politicians Cost of de-amalgamation not productive
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Save cost
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Save unnecessary expense

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	saw no benefit to de-amalgamation. some of supposed benefits were determinantal, e.g. more councillors de-amalgamation will be a major distraction to council, delaying progress on needed works and improvements three smaller councils will have less influence on state government and reduced ability to resist unwanted changes the campaign appeared to be driven on an emotional basis rather than rational by a group(s) of people still upset by the initial amalgamation. Ashfield and Leichardt councils were often dysfunctional so did not want to return to the petty politics. it would be highly likely to increase costs across all suburbs.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Scale efficiencies Less political numbers
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Scale makes financial sense More time is required to realise additional benefits from the amalgamation De-amalgamation is unnecessary and the cost would be exorbitant Culturally, the benefits have been wonderful Uniformity across the whole LGA gives the IW a better feel, I love it
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Seems like a huge waste of ratepayers' money, council time a resources to change a system that is currently working and to deliberately lose efficiencies of scale.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Seems like a waste of money I have to have my say about infrastructure in the inner west that is outside my local area
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Seems to be based on an ideal rather than practical improvements for residents Where there are issues, de-amalgamation would not necessarily solve those issues Costs involved in administrative change (again) Services appear better with the amalgamated council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Seems unnecessary to have fiefdoms
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Separating Councils is a massive waste of money and trust that IWC has tried to build. Separating Councils will result in lower support/services for locals, with money diverted to many studies, plans, and consultants unnecessarily
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Seperate councils are to small to keep up with raises costs.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	serives are better under IW Council than Ashfield Council used to live in Marrickville LGA which had great community and environment focussed ethos and proper vision (eg WSUD, street fairs and library redevelopment Ashfield Council was too small to do make meaningful change
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Service efficiencies from larger Council Better ability to attract experienced staff of larger Council Better ability of larger Council to deliver major projects

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Service levels fine Too soon to know if it doesn't work Disruption of services to change
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Service levels have met my family's needs
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Services have improved since amalgamation and have been more efficient and cost-effective. De-amalgamation will be costly and require a lot of time and effort that would be better spent on providing and improving services.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Services post amalgamation are much better than prior to amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Shortage of necessary skills in economy to run a small Council in 21st Century Amalgamated Councils are able to deliver more substantial local infrastructure improvements Smaller Councils less likely to deliver affordable housing Amalgamation is an ongoing process that will lead to better servicing in the long-run
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Significant costs to change again.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Since the amalgamation, there is nothing that as a resident, I've been disappointed with. The cost involved to de-amalgamate the council seems very unnecessary. What will be achieved with the de-amalgamation? All suburbs involved in the amalgamation have benefited from it.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Single amalgamated council functions much better than the individual ones did We experienced terrible boundary issues living right on the border of old Ashfield and old Leichhardt councils Deamalgamation expensive Have been very happy with amalgamation Place making (eg greenway) much much better when 1 council not 3
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Small councils are ineffective financially and service delivery poorer
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Small councils are inefficient and are not able to save money with economies of scale as larger councils can. They are also poorly run and more likely to be captured by vested interests
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Small councils are inefficient and concentrate power in the hands of wealthy landowners who use their influence to halt development, driving up housing prices.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Small councils are less powerful. Larger councils have more negotiating powers.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Small geographic area with similar housing and cultures can be successfully managed by the existing structure. This provides many

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
	efficiencies, less duplication and prospect for attracting before quality Councillors for the benefit of the rate payers and community.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Small government is inefficient Bigger councils have better economies of scale Bigger councils have more expertise (as they have more staff) Bigger council have more resources De-amalgamation would lead to more "personality" driven government and has a bigger risk of corruption
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Small local authorities lack the economies of scale to operate efficiently and to represent the community effectively when interfacing with State Government. I lived in Queensland in the past and I found their local governments to be better resourced and more impactful.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Smaller councils are inefficient and have less power and influence when dealing with State government. Also costly to dismantle
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Smaller councils are less efficient than a larger council. There are many benefits to having a larger council including economies of scale, a stronger voice to State Government, and less duplication of staff and resources.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Smaller councils inefficient. Not an effective voice to state government. Inner West more reflects our community identity
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Spent all the money to amalgamate, now going to have to spend more of our money to de-amalgamate.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	State government did not financially support amalgation which was costly and caused distress to so many staff and residents. Some efficiencies need achieved. De-amalgation will be costly and efficiencies lost. Council has more influence as a larger entity (population base). I don't believe we can afford another 4 to 5 years of stagnation if de- amalgation proceeds. Don't want another administrator appointed by state government.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Stupid idea
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Summer Hill was neglected during Ashfield Council's management. I've seen far more council Works in Summer Hill since The amalgamation.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Sunk costs of amalgamation Inner West council operating efficiently Potential rate increase with de-amalgamation Decrease in services/efficiencies with de-amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Support provided so far has been great. I don't want rate to rise to support duplication of councillors due to deamalgamation. A shopfront in local areas could solve concerns around council access.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	T he amalgamation is now done and is correct option to achieve economy of scale in provision of services It's stupid to undo the amalgamation now and a waste of money It will increase costly overheads

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Takes time for an organisation to gel Councillors were ratbags
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	That's how I feel. It's a falsehood to say de-amalgamation improves rights of individuals
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The additional cost of deamalgamtion The disruption to services The loss of inner west identity by deamalgamation Why does it seem that the only benefit is that there are more councillors and beaurocrats with deamalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The additional cost to rate payers The necessary reduction in services to be financially sustainably The perceived benefits of better representation do not seem to be tangible. The size of the current council is approriate to provide both democratic representation and effiicent services. The improvement in core business services since the amalgamation.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The amalgamated council is more efficient We have better services now We have stronger and better representation now The amalgamated council has improved our area
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The amalgamated council is working well. It's an enormous waste of public money to deamalgamate We don't need more councillors Deamalgamation will result in increased rates I can't see deamalgamation improving any services
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The amalgamated council structure appears to run smoothly. Why Change this? If it's not broken don't fix it. Also of benefit is the larger range of activities and facilities now Available.
No – do not support de-amalgamation	The Amalgamated Inner West Council has been operating since 2016...6 years. Its time to live with it. The constant Centralise Vs Decentralise of the Hospital System is like the Amalgamate Vs De-amalgamate Councils ... very frustrating, disruptive, inefficient & costly to the people. Overall, "Councils" should be run in the most efficient manner possible as a sub-set of State Government. There is a State Minister for Local Government. So the State has a right to amalgamate to gain efficiencies. The State Government wanted to achieve efficiencies, which have **NOT** been fully & enthusiastically embraced or undertaken by Amalgamated Councils. Amalgamated Councils always hoped to De-amalgamate at some point. Eg Inner West still has 3 staffed town halls in use and maintained. 2 could have been repurposed. De-amalgamation will: Increase the number of Councillors & costs. cost ratepayers more. not improve representation. same Mayor even though he was stood down 3 months before the Council election not improve Services.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
	not increase staff efficiencies. not make spending more efficient. undo efficiencies already achieved Increase costs to undo efficiencies achieved. It is Estimated that de-amalgamation would cost an additional $2,25Million in Executive Staff & Councillor costs alone. The **Ratepayer gets slugged again** !!
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The amalgamated innerwest council can provide consistent services across the whole area and be more efficient in delivering these services It should be considered to add Canada Bay, Burwood and Strathfield Councils to the innerwest council Further amalgamations would provide a better outcome for everyone as opposed to deamalgamation The innerwest should move forward and not backward
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The amalgamation did not change any services offered by council. The only difference was a new logo and slightly longer wait time on the phone. The cost of deamalgamation is not worth it. I don't see any benefit in deamalgamating
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	the amalgamation has been done - don't waste time, energy and money to try to reverse it
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The amalgamation has worked well as far as we are concerned. Why would you disrupt the lives of your employees and residents with de-emalgimating. However, if some have felt disadvantaged by the amalgimation process their concerns should be addresses. But from our viewpoint leave things as they are. As a ratepayer i would be interested to know where the problems lie for this group, perhaps they could be addressed and save us all a lot of bother.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The amalgamation has worked. Only 15 councillors instead of 36 All services have been upgraded We have already paid for amalgamation now extra cost for de-amalgamation Costs of new management structure now 3 instead 1 I believe that Ashfield, Leichhardt & Marrickville are a good combination
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The areas have a unified identity and it has been important for that identity over covid There is no need to spend money to de-amalgamate I like availability to more facilities under the LGA
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The benefits don’t outweigh the costs Change happened need to accept it
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The benefits of amalgamation were obvious to me at the time. They still exist. Three Councils were a luxury that ratepayers could not afford. Further, there was no evidence that three Councils were making the roads and footpaths any better than they are now.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The business case for deamalgamation showed in increased costs for all three councils which would be passed onto ratepayers as significant rate increases, for no clear benefit.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The case for de-amalgamation has not been made in any meaningful way. Going back to small councils is regressive and entrenches narrow minded thinking as endemic for the area.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The clout of our representative voice is bigger Efficiency of services Amalgamated boundries are a better locational identity Old borders raised too many “one side of the road has different rules” scenarios
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The complex and costly program of amalgamation had already been done. The Inner West Council was performing well, and to disrupted again for several years on a vague printable seem to me to be stupid.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The cost and disruption of de-amalgamation. Would rather leave it as is.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The cost and hassle does not seem worthwhile.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The cost and risk of unscrambling the egg greatly outweigh any potential benefits. We may not have liked the forced merger, but demerging won’t fix that.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The cost associated with de amalgamation. I don’t wish to be associated with Ashfield if deamalgamation did not return to three councils
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The cost but I have now changed my mind and would prefer deamalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The cost imposition and disruption of service to reverse what an arrangement that is bedding in makes very little sense Uncertainty and destabilising situation for staff and customers The model is maturing and finding its feet - to unpick it now makes very little sense It’s very unlikely to be supported by the NSW Government There was very little information on options presented before the poll
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The cost of de amalgamation is a waste of money. The council should accept this decision and get on with their core duties.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The cost of de merging could be better spent on facilities within the area

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The cost of de-amalgamation is simply too much, both in terms of increaed rates and the disruption it will cause. The perceived problems of the council can be addressed within the present framework While amalgamation was forced on us and caused undewrstandable resentment it is too late to go back. Major projects such as the Greenway are better manged under the larger structure. De-amalgamation will in the end be resented because of the pain it will cause. Council needs to continually improve service delivery and communication to overcome negative public sentiment
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The cost of the amalgamation has already been absorbed. It is a waste of money for tge entire NSW people to have to fund a deamalgamation. We don't need specialist councillors for individual suburbs. All that is required is for the councillors to be honest and ethical and manage the finances appropriately. We all need the same services at and generally want the same facilities. It is a duplication of services and the added costs that will result in deamalgamation. It's working ok. Leave it as it is. nd gen
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The cost The shared resources benefit everyone Small local councils serve noone well We have this model now, lets make it work and focus on the real issues Deamalgamation won't solve the problems
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The cost to de-amalgamate is so expensive Things are working OK now after a lot of work to amalgamate
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The cost to rate payers is excessive, especially considering the inflation and cost of living pressures currently impacting the inner west Service delivery is currently good, no need to change
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The cost to ratepayers of de-amalgamation
No – do not support de-amalgamation	The costs and benefits are no demonstrated
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The costs are too high. There would be an increase in rates with little actual benefit. Money is better spent on infrastructure and services. The reasons for de-amalgamation are weak and seem to serve political interests.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The costs associated with de-amalgamation with no guarantee of improved services.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The costs of de-amalgamation are unwarranted. I have been pleased with the services provided by the merged IWC, for example, the merged library service.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The costs of decentralisation isn't worth the benefit A demalgamated council won't be as efficient according to the facts on the flyer of the business that I received I can only see benefits from amalgamation- like the transition to LED streetlights - I am fine to be proven wrong Local input when it comes to developing is an issue
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The costs outweigh any benefits of which I see none
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The costs outweigh any benefits We don't need more councillors
No – do not support de-amalgamation	The Council can be more efficient (so long as you stop firing the GMs). Splitting the Council will just increase costs for no actual improvement. (Having three sets of councillors is just jobs for the boys/girls – waste of money). Having more skilled councillors on planning and admin would be better.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The council could have stop the amalgamation with other eastern suburb councils in court but chose not. Waste of money to deamalgumate Councils are state government entities, not proper governments. Cut waste in taxpayers money.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The council has been more effective as the Inner West Council Lower cost and more efficient, so more can be spent on services and community Separate councils is confusing for renters moving between different council areas (inconsistent services) Better sense of community by encompassing all or inner west
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The council is more efficient this way and the rates are lower. It also (hopefully) prevents corruption from happening again
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The council is much better since amalgamation A larger council is more cost effective The inner west is better severed by a larger council acting more consistently across the inner west
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The councils are merged now. Just get on with other things & don't waste time & money on a demerger.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The councils before were too small, and were run as little fiefdoms
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The de-amalgamation clearly states that council rates will increase, there will be more councilors, etc which clearly means greater costs. The de-amalgamation has nothing to do with running councils efficiently, rather it is about councilors egos
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The efficiency of de-amalgamation is a terrible option for rate payers in the inner west Current service delivery is sufficient De-amalgamation seems like a ploy by councillors to access increased funding

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	the enormous costs involved in the amalgamation, and the costs to deamalgate would be huge and unnecessary.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The expected cost (now flagged to be $26m upfront and a further $22m ongoing) The increase of cost to the rate payers (now flagged as an average increase of $266) IWC provision of amenity, such as marrickville library has been an amazing achievement of a combined effort. Reducing to individual councils would reduce their ability to create meaningful change Time and cost of deamalgamating could take years. This is potentially wasted time and funds which inevitably create 3 weaker councils with limited funds and people to action important community development The amalgamated councils share common goals, and are stronger together rather than apart
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The expense
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The flyer from IWC is muddy in detail; obviously deamalgamation would be costly, plus it's good to share with Marrickville & Ashfield. I just have 2 wants : 1. remove as many parking meters as possible so that we can be more mobile. 2. bring back the 6-monthly kerbside chuckouts, which benefited so many in the community.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The focus should be to strengthen what exists and improve it. Deamalgamation is a massive waste. One large council would have better resources and information sharing.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The Inner West council is comprised of three similar councils in politics and purpose. The amalgamation made no discernible difference to me as a long time resident.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The Inner West Council is doing a good cost efficient job and there is no point spending extra money to change that
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The Inner West Council is performing well and should be allowed to continue. Splitting it up will see a return to the old petty squabbling on Council and an inability to actually drive change because the organisation is too depleted and fractured. De-almagamation will be a costly, pointless exercise to appease the egos of former councillors who are no longer relevant. It's time to move on! The oft-quoted non-binding poll was a farce. I worked at a polling booth and witnessed first-hand that many voters had no idea what they were voting for nor understood the issues involved. A significant number of voters from NESB didn't seem to understand what 'de-amalgamation' meant. A typical response from a voter was 'I don't understand the question but I'm voting Yes because it sounds more positive'. If the question had been reversed with support for amalgamation made the Yes option, then it's likely there wo

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The Inner West is one contiguous community. It makes sense for it to be one LGA from a planning, environmental and service delivery perspective.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The IWC has been managing very well so far While I didn't support the amalgamation when it occurred, efficiencies were achieved and to de-amalgamate would undo that costly work and waste that money as well as cost more so the whole exercise will have been pointless There is little benefit in de-amalgamating because of the cost of doing it. The community should have been consulted prior to the original amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The large amount of money and time spent to amalgamate would be wasted - all the systems that have been implemented then to be torn apart
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The larger council is more efficient - Leichhard council before was not held to account Poor prior management More accountable
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The larger council is more efficient. There are other ways to improve local voices within the amalgamated council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The larger council is more powerful and efficient. Residents of the old 3 councils have a lot in common
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The LESS Government and officials the better. N.S.W should have ONE Les tier of government.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The management under previous Ashfield Council was crap. The amalgamation has been a significant improvement and much better use of taxes.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The merged council is doing a decent job in my opinion so why deamalgate. Deamalgamation will be a waste of either rate payers or tax payers' money.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The merged council is more efficient Efficiency of scale
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The money has been spent. It is a waste of more money to de-amalgamate. Put it towards making the current council even better. Please don't spend more money on a mainly symbolic act. Concerns that partly why some people want to deamalgamate is because of racism/xenophobia towards the other councils

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The need to link services over a wider geographic area (especially traffic and transport) is critical. Having discrete local areas with their own governance complicates and reduces effectiveness. Having more councillors merely allows the governance of council to become political and ineffective. Having fewer councillors means they will need to convince residents of their value and contribution. The cost of fragmentation is too high. I have needed to register dumping and contact council for other matters and find the response timely and professional. The cost and pain of change is past and the focus needs to be on increasing productivity. Covid caused many useful changes eg libraries
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The negatives associated with de-amalgamation heavily out ways the positives
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The new council works better than the old one - way better. Get told things by the new council when things are proposed to change - old council did not No local loonies pushing their agendas on new council - like spending money to boycott companies with ties to Israel Waste of money to spend going back to the old way, such as new signs, artwork, etc The campaign in the last election was all YES. No money given to any no case.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The old council ignored Tempe. No reason to go back Inner west has efficiencies of scale At a minimum Tempe reserve is being upgraded. Tempe shops were allowed to deteriorate under old council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The old councils were too small Increased cost to residents and businesses The amalgamation has not been given time to work No proof that reverting will be better we do not need more public servants
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The only outcome will be an excuse to increase my rates. This is obvious and indeed stated in your "business case". Since the merger in May 2016, my rates increased 56.1% and 105.9% in the 12 years I have owned my property. This has come with no "improved efficiencies or services" at any time before or after merger and despite the public declarations of "rate harmonisation benefits" expected to have manifested last year due to the merger. Any impetus claimed for the 'de-merger' is invalid. The question added, out of the blue, to the council election in Dec 2021 had no accompanying statements or prior discussion as to the impact on costs for ratepayers. The insertion of the question at that time and in that manner was a blatant attempt to achieve the outcome suiting certain lobby groups and nothing more. Unless the promise is reduce rates from day 1 of a "de-merger", there is no tangible benefit to de-merger. Whatever is driver for this suggestion seems to outside any economic rationale. The demerger is totally tone deaf to current economic circumstances forcing up cost of living for people. Astounding arrogance.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The pre-amalgamation Councils were much smaller, making it harder to plan the network of community infrastructure across the Inner West It will cost a lot of time and money to de-amalgamate. This value won't be reflected in improved outcomes for the community.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The previous council sizes were too small to effectively service local populations. Service in the previous Ashfield LGA was very poor due to a lack of economies of scale The claim that local councils need to be small enough so that there are enough elected representatives to service constituents is a fallacy. 15 Councillors are enough to represent all of Inner West Council and remove the party-oriented stranglehold on local politics. Local Government sustainability suffers more from rate pegging rather than too big a size. Millions of dollars will be required to revert back to de-amalgamation times with a significant reduction in current services
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The previous councils were too small to be effective. I previously lived in the Sutherland Shire and the economy of scale that being a large council brought meant that (a) their identity was everywhere and (b) they could be super effective for their constituents. I genuinely believe we need bigger councils and less Local Government Areas (LGAs). This is especially important as LGAs aren't protected in any sort of constitution.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The risks outweigh the benefits The costs were far too great on each resident The money should be spent on more important issues
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The service since amalgamation has been as good or better than before. I expect costs will increase due to duplicated overheads if de-amalgamation occurs.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The service, communication, priorities and achievements of the Inner West Council are far superior to those of the previous Ashfield council Financially it makes no sense to de-amalgamate, both for short term costs and ongoing costs Continual changes to council structures are de-motivating for staff and confusing for residents It makes no sense to have so many councilors across multiple councils - a waste of resources Standardising processes, facilities and services across the Inner West is more equitable and resources can be directed where they are most needed
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The Services provided by the Inner West Council are good - they are an improvement on those provided by the former Leichhardt Council. Moreover de-amalgamation will cost each rate payer around $300 extra p.a. and that is forever. The extra cost for a likely poorer service led to my vote. I want to see fewer politicians/councillors. De-amalgamation delivers that.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The size of the council is consistent with the size of other councils.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The thought that people living in Ashfield have vastly different needs from their local government, than people 5km away is laughable Larger LGAs have a greater economy of scale allowing for more efficient service and larger, more impact impactful programs/initiatives larger LGAs can more efficiently assign their workforce to carry out their legislative duties, particularly in the compliance sector (food safety/development control/nuisance etc) just because the initial state government amalgamation policy was handled and implemented horrifically, doesn't mean that the decisions made weren't the correct ones.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The transition has been made and it seems silly to go backwards now. I have not seen or read any good reason to de-amalgamate aside from vague promises. It doesn't make sense for nearby services to require different councils. I travel all over the inner west to access different public services and it makes sense they are under one council. The cost of de-amalgamation would be better spent on so many different things.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The transition was already made to amalgamate, systems are already in place Too disruptive Unnecessarily expensive for owners and the government There have been some great gains through the IW Council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	The types of services offered are the same or better The quality of services are the same or better The value for money is the same or better I feel like part of a bigger, more diverse and inclusive community
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	There appears to be little benefit and a large cost, with no promise of better outcomes
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	There are a number of efficiencies and synergies to be had through amalgamating councils and spreading fixed costs. Deamalgamation will remove these benefits whilst shifting the focus of council to internal operational processes instead of key community projects.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	There are benefits to having a larger council to deal with state government imposition and involvement A larger, better resourced Council could improve Active Transport in the context of the Eastern Harbour city
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	There are economies of scale benefits from the amalgamation of the three council areas. Greater lobbying power if the inner west councils remain combined Greater breadth of services and more efficiencies Access and services offered across all Libraries Less financial cost go into management
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	There are efficiencies of being a larger council Benefits of each each prior council are shared amongst the combined council I feel more highly represented by the larger council than the interests of the smaller prior council It would be a huge waste of money and resources to de-amalgamate the councils after such a short period, when efforts could be

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
	better spent elsewhere De-amalgamation supports dodgy developers who can more easily sway a smaller council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	There are far too many Councils in this City. Given that we were told ad infinitum how costly it was going to be to merge Councils, why does cost not matter this time when you want to deamalgamate? Does not make sense.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	There are long term economic benefits which will be acheived from the amalgamation which have not yet been realised. By having a council which covers a larger geographic area we will be able to, over the long term, deliver services to residents at a lower cost (via economies of scale). Deamalgamation will lose these benefits and the cost of the delivery of services on a per resident basis will be more expensive over the long term if we deamalgamate l Economic benefits of synergies from amalgamation achieved over the long term will be lost and council rates will go up over the long term if we deamalgamate Council areas in the inner west face similar challenges. By having a larger amalgamated council, all of the inner west area and residents can benefit from the delivery of higher quality services from one local council, rather than having a very mixed experience across three By representing a larger number of residents, as an amalgamated council, we will have more influence in having our voice heard via greater bargaining power at a NSW state government level Council rates will go up (over the short and the long term) if we deamalgamate
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	There are no discernable benefits to deamalgamation. Deamalgamating would be expensive and result in poorer services - why would anyone want that?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	There are no real benefits to de-amalgamation, and substantial financial costs.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	There are too many layers of government and council areas were small with duplication of staff
No – do not support de-amalgamation	There is no case on any grounds.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	There is no clear benefit
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	There is no economic benefit and economic costs to de-amalgamation. it makes sense for three inner western Sydney LGAs with similar communities and values to form one LGA There are economies of scale and sharing of financial burdens across the three areas
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	There is no evidence that this will result in better services.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	There is no need for de-amalgamation. Larger council is far more efficient.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	There is no point in winding back efficiencies gained by the amalgamation, especially if the new councils will operate at losses. Leichhardt looks run down. Litter everywhere. Broken roads and footpaths. We need more time and effort in making the area more livable, not wasting time on de-amalgamation. I'd prefer council concentrating on litter control, street scene improvement especially on Norton St which looks really shabby and run down. Bring back some pride to the area. Not focussing on dramalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	There is no real benefit to me as a non political activist. It would give more power to the council, when the council is more interested in political nonsense issues than providing/enabling useful amenities/services
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Things are working well don't really notice a big difference. A field council never worried about Croydon and neither does IW. So. I difference.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Things are working, the cost of change is too high.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Things seem to be working fine - if it aint broke, don't fix it I noticed no difference when the councils amalgamated other than a new logo on garbage bins and trucks There are already too many layers of government in this country, local council areas should be bigger not smaller Presumably there will be a significant financial cost to deamalgamation with little obvious benefit (re-branding those garbage trucks again won't come cheap).
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Things were better after amalgamation It is foolishly expensive to maintain 3 administrations when we could have 1
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Think the amalgamated system brings benefits and efficiency that all benefit from
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	This deamalgamtion is a distraction from the job of local government. As a larger Council, Inner West is as large as a state electorate and should have a greater profile and influence on NSW government decision making that effects local isssues. Those councillors that continue to push this ridiculous bandwagon are running a platform that is devisive and the antithesis to the community building and collaboration that is essential to effective government.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	This is a complete waste of money to change the council set up yet again
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	This only adds cost and serves no real benefit. Why do we need 2 more mayor's, more GM's Why do we need More councillors, rebranding of

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
	parks, fleet, uniforms, paperwork How about just getting on with your jobs.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	this would be a huge waste of rate payers money. It seems vested interests who want control of a smaller council area are at play There are benefits in having a merged council - cost saving efficiencies by removing duplication; resident access to more facilities e.g. shared library facilities
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Though i believe the amalgamation should not have occurred, it is done now and would be a huge waste of money to put tings back as before with no appreciable benefits to rate payers
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Thought there would eventually be cost savings for all. Better utilisation of labour and equipment
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Three sets of planning documentation in such a small geography don't make sense It will cost the rate payers. I'm happy with the service council offers now and don't see a need for change. There is no point having three engineering standards (traffic stormwater etc)
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Time to move forward - an issue of the past.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Time to move on
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	To demerge is a complete waste of money and effort after the amalgamation I do not think many people really thought through the effects of demerg
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	To obtain economies of scale Reduce duplication / cost Improve work place Culture Reduce unaligned policies Reduce corruption
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	To reduce waste and double handling To make sure bigger and better project can happen.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Too costly Service especially rubbish collection has markedly improved since amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Too costly to maintain lots of small councils What's done is done - need to move forward Technology benefits come with scale
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Too costly to reverse with no observed benefits seen
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Too expensive and unfair to staff
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Too expensive Result in lower services

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Too expensive to de-amalgamate Merged Council seems to be working well Rates will have to increase Staff would have to be duplicated Can't unscramble eggs without a lot of cost, pain, duplication
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	too expensive to de-amalgamate, especially considering how much it cost to amalgamate stress on employees with more changes detracts from more important issues like parking, green spaces,
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Too expensive. Waste of residents money.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Too hard to change back. Lower standing costs and duplication with one instead of three. Better use of assets across all 3 areas
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Too interconnected with other suburbs to be own councils Spending too much local taxpayer money on councilors and mayor salaries
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Too many levels of govt already & local govt would be too small if de-amalgamated Economies of scale
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Too much money and time has already been spent on amalgamation Services and council visibility and transparency have vastly improved under IWC
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	total waste of time and money - get on with it
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Total waste of time and money to de amalgamate.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Unless Newtown is under one council I can't see any upside
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Unnecessary cost to rate payers of de-amalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Unnecessary expense Satisfied with the current council Access to more resources in council area Can't see the point in going back when everything is working well Dont want rates to rise
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Unnecessary waste of money, current arrangement works fine
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Unnecessary Will lead to additional costs Will cause staff upheaval
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Very costly to de-amalgamate. Not sure there would be an ongoing benefit. Reducing economies of scale
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Want efficiencies of cost and service

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Wast or rate payer money. Better as one big council, more efficient, less duplication. Rates will go up if de-amalgamated. Already spent a lot of money on the amalgamation.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of money and time
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of money and time splitting everything back up again just because "that's how it used to be" The greater population covered by the amalgamated councils means more funding, which gives council the opportunity to provide better services more consistently to more people The geographical area covered by the Inner West Council is comparatively small, so it really doesn't make sense to split it back up for ideological reasons Ashfield, Leichhardt, and Marrickville may host a diverse range of cultures, but we all proudly identify as being the Inner West! Having one council under a unified brand provides all Inner West residents with someone to represent all of our shared interests
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of money and time to de-amalgamate
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	waste of money and time to pursue going back
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of money Current council is working
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	waste of money de amalgamating that could be used in other ways Inner west council seems to be working - i like being linked to all of inner west
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of money de-emalgamating Council is doing a great job as IWC Very easy to deal with IWC currently Rates are fair Community IW feel
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of money Everything will be more expensive with a smaller council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of money Fewer services More expensive rates
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of money for little benefit Increases cost for all at a bad time
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	waste of money happy with amalgamation took years to amalgamate libraries which now works well as one integrated system Summer Hill borders on all 3 previous council areas. I always used all 3 council services we have amalgamated now...no point going back
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of money Illogical

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of money It makes sense to have an amalgamated council in the inner west Ability to pool resources Could be more efficient if council and councillors are responsible Allows for consistent services and processes across inner west
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of money Little prospect of state govt approval New council hasn't had time to bed down Still a waste of money
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of money Loss of efficiencies by going back Too many inconsistencies through different councils fundamentally in the same area of the same city
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of money More councillors for no real benefit, some of whom have bad track records Bad track record of the previous council IWC works well and is consistent No confidence in the process
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of money More services by having 3 councils together
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of money No real benefits
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of money to de- merge
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	waste of money to demerge. Council needs effeciancy
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of money to revert.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of money unscrambling the omelette
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of money Waste of time Prefer larger lga
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	waste of money what's done is done I don't want to be in ashfield council
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of money! Our needs are being met, as they were before amalgamation. There MUST be some economies of scale being amalgamated. Re branding etc is such an unnecessary waste of money!
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of money, no real benefit, some risks and ongoung cist to residents for no improvement or benefit to residents.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of money.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of money.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of money.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of money. Don't believe it would benefit the residents. My experience of dealing with previous Ashfield council was not positive. Tendency for smaller councils to micromanage Current inner west council better managed than previous Ashfield Council by far.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of money. Even if it's payed for by NSW Government, that's still taxpayer money. Waste of time. Council staff and NSW public servants have more important things to spend limited hours on. Won't achieve anything. Council is doing fine as is. Satisfaction is high among residents. Nostalgia is only reason we think things used to be better.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of money. No real benefit.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of money. Smaller councils less efficient and effective. Prevent rate rises.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of our money
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of public resources Greater political advocacy and scale of prominence with combined council Smaller councils will focus on less important issues
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of rate payers funding for no benefits Inner West council is doing a good job as is
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of resources
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of resources having multiple councils
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of time and money
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of time and money and services are fine
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of time and money Focus is just to give power back to small interest groups.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	waste of time and money loss of streamlined business processes loss of staff corporate knowledge loss of economies of scale
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of time and money to reverse More efficient and more power as a bigger council Better service delivery as Inner West Council compared to when it was just Ashfield council

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of time and resources spent over last few years amalgamating council Instability, both for council staff and community Service disruption I think the current level of service provision is great and don't agree with the complaints/argument for deamalgamation
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of time and resources Will lead to worse financial and service outcomes Prolongs the painful process we have been through
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of time Waste of money Funding can towards more environmental projects. E.g household organic waste management
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of time Waste of money Will only slow everything down Why amalgamate, and then undo it 6 years later It's bureaucratic nonsense
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of time, money and resources
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of time, money and resources
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Waste of time, money and resources and demoralising for Council staff
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Wasteful Backward step The 3 formers LGAs are stronger together More choice for residents in services & facilities
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	We are already amalgamated; it's working well. Why change now? Stupid idea. Stick with the amalgamated council, please!
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	We do not need to spend more time and money on this issue. Small councils have less resources if managed properly tue amalgamated council can provide more services to the community.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	We don't need more politicians to run an area smaller in size and residents than other Australian cities Inner West Council has scale that has benefited suburbs like Ashfield and we should continue to do so. The larger inner west council is more economically and socially diverse I do not want to pay higher rates due to loss of economies of scale. The poll is non binding
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	We just amalgamated!
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	We should focus on improving current services instead of spending money on deamalgamation.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	We were forced into amalgamation and our rates increased, and there was a lot of wastage including the unnecessary replacement of the rubish bins. There were positive improvements too. Now that we are amalgamated, we should stick with it. The rate increases proposed are too high, that puts extra pressure on families already struggling with inflation and the aftermaths of the pandemic. I don't think people that voted yes to de-amalgamated really understand the consequences on their pockets, if they did, they would not have voted in favour. Let's please, please, please just stay as we are. We want stability, we want to go forward and not backwards. We don't want to be going back and forth with administration changes, wasting money and wasting time.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	We would be financially worse off as a smaller council, not to mention the waste of tax payers money to demerge
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	We, the residents, are better off with a larger council - the Inner West Council - rather than three smaller councils. I've benefitted in so many ways with the councils being together in the Inner West Council - the library system is larger across the Inner West; the daycare options are larger, as the council daycare options are across the whole Inner West; council cultural events and grants are larger, as they span the whole Inner West. So many benefits! We benefit from economies of scale with running just the one large council for the area. The cost to de-amalgamate is a waste of money.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	What a massive waste of taxpayers money The current branding of the Innerwest Council is good. All that money spent and you want to change it? Madness I'd rather you spent money on more urban gardens. More sustainable initiatives and other things that require attention rather than wasting money on a demerger. Fix up our community instead. Look at the high street in leichhardt, it's a mess. Empty shops, greedy landlords. Bring back our community vibe. Lots of other reasons, but can't think. Too mad that people thought deamalgamation was a good idea. it was a crappy idea to begin with but the money has been spent and infrastructure is in place, so why waste more money changing it? Fi the things that really matter.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	What a waste of public money at a time when so many people and businesses are resource constrained The money used for this type of machinery of government change would be far better spent on community services This machinery of government change only serves individual and political agendas and doesn’t serve the community whatsoever Just let the council public service continue its great work without the threat of job loss that would come from this change
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	what’s done is done I didn’t support amalgamation in the first place, but it’s happened. Deamalgamation is just vast costs and pain for no tangible benefit.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	What's done is done, and now that the IWC has been created it would be expensive and disruptive to go back, for no discernible benefit. Deamalgamation is a niche issue only of interest to activists. Normal residents aren't much fussed.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	While amalgamation was a bad idea originally it is now done and you should just get on with it. We don't need to pay for more councilors let's pay for more access to fitness centers at an affordable price!
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	While I opposed the original merger, demerger will be costly and will bring no benefits.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	While I spoke against amalgamation prior to it occurring at rallies alongside Mayor Byrne and other councillors along with state MP's and MLC's. There is no need to waste even more funds undoing what happened. We need to fight to ensure the current council operations are as efficient as possible providing for the community.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	While it was unfortunate that the state government unilaterally forced councils to amalgamate the representatives of Inner West Council have generally made the best of the situation. Public spaces, roads, and facilities have had great investment which has been bolstered by the administrative efficiencies gained through removal of duplicated efforts and roles. The fact that residents of Inner West Council get superior service levels for a reduced cost is an excellent benefit of the situation. It would be unfortunate if residents had to pay increased rates to essentially have a decrease in service levels under option A. Additionally there seems to be little tangible, measurable benefit to deamalgamation while introducing significant risks to residents of each area. In almost any other decision making environment the business case, as it stands, would be taken as a clear warning of what not to do.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Why change
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Why change after all the pain? Council is performing ok Economies of scale and scope
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Why go backwards
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Why go through the expense of de-amalgamating? I don't see the benefit.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Why waste money un-doing it when it's working well Love the combined library services Council seems more effective and cost effective amalgamated
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Why waste the money to de-amalgamate. We are where we are, let's just move on

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Why would would you go to same amount of councillors for tiny area, red tape for small area no better than pooled area, also the inner west has always been inner west anyway, why do you need a council for more or less one suburb
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Will lead to higher costs Will cause greater beauracy
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Worked in Council. Amalgamation was first time that the former LGAs worked together and address challenges in a holistic way. Urban planning has significantly benefited from the amalgamation. Previous to amalgmation, planners across the three LGAs worked in isolation, which is not the most practical way of achieving sustainable outcomes and wider benefits.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	X I did not really see the point . At the time it looked like it was more costly to deamalgamate.
No – Do not support de-amalgamation	Your figures are total fabrication that costs ate higher now You javent told or factored in or imitted your operating costs and duplication of support services, finance, infra, IT etc etc
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	1. living in the inner west council is NOT cheap 2. how an area looks is IMPORTANT to residents, just LOOK at how the houses are maintained, now LOOK at the streets ....the pot holes everywhere, in summer the long verge grass and the traffic island beds are NOT maintained to a decent standard. 3. Staffing levels and remuneration packages need to be completely OVERHAULED starting from Gainsford. 4. Is Gainsford the right 'FIT' for GM, given his past history with the then Leichhardt Council. 5. Council is suppose to be there to listen and support their RATE PAYING resident, not vice verser !!
(nothing selected, only comments)	3 years for backdating of being ripped off for 20 years on pension paying double rates! Many other reasons like favouring property developers to demolish surrounding areas.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	1. loss of my local community, and no sense of community with other areas 2. deterioration in Council services, including garbage, waste collection, street management etc. 3. attempt by the new council and other politicians to manipulate the deamalgamation process.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	A bit of fun Force council to consider the real world implications Get council to think like the government for once
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	A more responsive council
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	A SENSE OF CLOSENESS TO COUNCIL PROCESSES AND A STRONGER VOICE. DESIRE TO REDUCE POLITICISATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Access to council in my immediate area Need regular council cleanups Local problems addressed eg. dangerous step on footpaths
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	After amalgamation, the council rate has increased, but many necessary services that were originally provided are gone.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	All of the above
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	All services more efficient and better managed before amalgamation.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	All the promised benefits did not happen, service has gone down but no cost savings, rates still go up Loss of "local" in council, too much focus on political issues, infighting and councillors getting press inches rather than managing the basics I don't feel attached to the inner west, most of it is just another part of Greater Sydney, I feel attachment and links to the Leichhardt area Decision to move all "government to Ashfield (where I have no connection and only been once due to a council requirement) Leichardt always had the best council service but rates to match. Now we have the rates but the worst service from all the 3 original councils
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Amal Amalgamation reduced local democracy. Supposed savings never materialised We were not consulted before amalgamation Another example of Liberal party arrogance and bullying
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Amalgamation gave no benefits for the community, and was and continues to be very costly De-amalgamation would result in Better localised service and more cost effective
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Amalgamation has delivered LESS: upkeep of green space, maintenance of grass verges, roads maintenance, council cleanups, communication with Council (frustrating/rarely get needs met). Amalgamation has meant a small reduction in rates, however not enough to offset all mentioned defects.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	AMALGAMATION HAS INCREASED RATES REDUCED COUNCIL ACCOUNTABILITY REDUCED COUNCIL SERVICES INCREASED BEAUROCRACY DON'T LIKE HAVING TWO SEPARATE RUBBISH COLLECTIONS FOR WASTE EACH WEEK
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Amalgamation has not served any part of the new IWC well. Representation has been lost resulting in councillors not being able to deal with local problems Service levels when dealing with council have dropped since amalgamation. We have lost local managment and control of our suburb.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Amalgamation was forced on us Services have deteriorated

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Amalgamation was handled poorly by the GM, executive and councillors, no effort made to get economies of scale, Executives kept on cushy contracts with no performance KPIs, a finance system that is unworkable As in other LGAs, the biggest issue is dealing with the corporate culture of a combined work force As with CB city, Bayside etc bullying and toxic managerial practices have allowed to flourish and at inner west this was threefold ! De- amalgamation should be about drawing completely new boundaries for two new councils fresh, a spill and fill process for staff and clear out the executive , new council elections. All new start.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Amalgamation was meant to provide economic benefits worth around $20 million. This was what was claimed by its proponents, Baird and Byrne. Instead, under Mayor Byrne, amalgamation has onflicted over $20 million in losses on the new IWC. these losses look set to grow under present management It has become clear that Mayor Byrne colluded with Premier Baird's plan to knobble the 3 councils that criticised the Westconnex scam, so as to gain more power for himself, at the expense of ratepayers across all 3 council areas. Byrne has proven to be an exceptionally vain and manipulative mayor, incapable of doing that job in the interests of residents and ratepayers. The leaflet published by the Council purporting to inform residents about the risks/ benefits of deamalgamation was very clearly misleading and deceptive. It appears from the process that led to the production of this public document that the deceptive nature of it was intentional, and only to serve one individual at the expense of all ratepayers, who were clearly regarded by this person as his dupes. The administrative load imposed on Councillors by the forced amalgamation is clearly far too great. Council meetings that were formerly held monthly, became weekly events, often dragged out for hours by the Mayor's self indulgent misconduct. This will obviously continue unless the councils are enabled to be deamalgamated, in line with our community's clearly expressed wish.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Amalgamation was never a choice, the needs of my closest community are not all the same needs or values as for people who live further out.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Amalgamation was supposed to improve services, efficiency, lower rates and simplify bureaucracy. I didn’t feel that happened.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Apart from the political turmoil manifested within the amalgamated Inner West Council over the past years, I feel that the council is far too large to be representative of local community interests. Community input that used to guide Leichhardt Council has been suppressed, and the "open council" proceedings, achieved after so many years, are now a closed shop. IWC has expanded to areas far from where I live, that I have rarely or never visited, and of which I have no interest, at least not in an administrative sense. What use to me is a $25 million aquatic centre, or a park, civic centre, or whatever that is too far away for me to use? Yet my rates contribute to the construction and maintenance of such facilities.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
	The council merger was FORCED on us, no business case having been presented, nor a plebescite, nor any real chance to object. At the first opportunity, nearly two thirds of ratepayers across the whole of the IWC voted last December to de-amalgamate, despite the costs of doing so. Yet I note that we are now presented with a business case emphasising the costs of de-amalgamation. What hypocrisy! It's just another hurdle for us to jump over. Just what are these increases in service levels that the IWC is meant However, I do note that the business case suggests that the option of sharing services across the three de-amalgamated councils "was discounted after a review of the literature indicated there was little demonstrated benefit". This implies that there never was a financial benefit in merging the three councils, it was a poorly thought-out political exercise in which large sums of money, our rates and taxes, were wasted on new signage, web site, logos, letter heads, and all of the other accoutrements of the IWC. Add to that the corruption inherent in diverting, into naked political pork barrelling, the $252 million that was supposed to be used to facilitate council mergers, and I think you should begin to understand the level of anger that persists in the community over the unwanted merger that was FORCED on us.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Appalling treatment of Greens councillors in public meetings Weak council response to major development proposals - WCX, White Bay Garbage collection management is very unfair. Bike infrastructure poor. Road repairs shoddy and delayed. No action on street shade to reduce sun/heat impacts.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Areas for ward reps to represent now too big to give proper attention to issues. Too many issues for staff too. As such our local character & heritage collapsing (ceaseless demolitions) through terrible council staff & rep advocacy as they now have too big a geo area to deal withl Feel additionally democratically disenfranchised post-amalgamation by huge council agendas & stricter speaking times to keep up with this & not debating issue that public spoken on at the time i.e., dismissing you home so reps don't face them when vote , physically removed council chamber meetings hard to get to for the time-poor which is most people, no precinct groups, new local democ groups not the same, little staff accountability & high staff turnover Loss of sense of community from all of above. Independent planning panel experience is disgusting too & councillors too busy to look at reforming, takes ages like weeks to get hold of a specific member now Don't push back on state govt planning violations (like outrageous CDCs) & edicts any more any more strongly with the bigger council
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	As the current innerwest council has failed to provide efficient services to residents

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Ashfield LGA responds quickly as an individual entity.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Ashfield was much more responsive to neighbourhood character and residents Ashfield was much better at managing development outcomes & protecting our heritage IWC is too top heavy, so many layers & sections, all operate in 'silos', no direction from top IWC imposes generic policies that erode, destroy & ignore Haberfield's significance IWC rates in Habefrield higher that rest of IWC: IWC too hard to even contact a real person and get a 'real' replyS
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	At the time I thought there was a case for providing increased focus on our suburb. I was resentful for the NSW Government forcing amalgamation. I now do not have this view, particularly after reading the proposals.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Balmain Leichardt and Rozelle have a unique story in Australian history and different needs than other suburbs such as Marrickville and Ashfield
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Basic services have decreased since amalgamation eg twice yearly household rubbish pickup very difficult to contact anyone at the council for basic services amalgamation has made the local council too big and needs of my council are less efficient we were not given a voice to amalgamate, no consultation for something that affects me
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Because all services have declined & costs increased since forced amalgamation. We did not have the opportunity to vote for amalgamation & voted for deamalgamtion. In our neighbourhood in Leichhardt, near MarketPlace, rubbish is everywhere, it is not picked up As it used to be by Leichhardt Council. I spend an hour each week or fortnight picking up rubbish In our street, I pick up a large bag of rubbish every time I go out on my mobility scooter. There are no Rubbish bins on the southern side of Marion Street between Norton Street & almost at Flood Street opp MarketPlace,where 95 % of pedestrian traffic is. Marion Street is covered with rubbish & litter on the southern side. It is up to locals to pick up rubbish. The verges are cut far less often, & the council cleanups have been cancelled & replaced with individual households booking cleanups, which do not work, as piles of rubbish sit in the street for days or weeks.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Because amalgamation seems only to have resulted in increased bureaucracy and no improvement to services
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Because general services/maintenance have deteriorated since the merger - i believe as a result of the sacking of many experienced, knowledgeable staff especially from former Marrickville Council; also Covid and heavy rain/floods have contributed; in addition there has been a huge amount of construction/new infrastructure/redevelopment works over the past few years (Metro line, Marrickville Metro expansion, station upgrades, huge redevelopments residential and commercial etc) that have

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
	taken a huge toll on the qu Former Marrickville Council was a smaller area of governance, and councillors were able to provide personal grassroots direct relationships with residents and agencies; the new merged council ward areas are far too large to allow this same level of "local focus" and the workload (for a part time role) is onerous. De-activating local town halls/offices divides, separates and alienates people from their local centre of representation, governance and services - and it's very very inconvenient as well! The IWC has devolved into a factional debacle, with a Labor-majority team led by an ego-driven Mayor, that over ride the second largest contingent of Greens and the various Independents. To all appearances, it is a very difficult and toxic environment. The previous council team, also led by the same Mayor, had a similar toxic content as evidenced by relationship difficulties with several GMs and staff, and most former councillors not wishing to stand again for re-election in 2021. Local council representation sho Councillors should be locals, live (or work) in the area that they wish to represent - that is the very essence of this level of government. It is small grassroots level government. It is the best opportunity for regular people to be able to voice their opinion, make changes and make a difference, develop relationships with their local representative. The new mega IWC council format does not allow this personalised localised representation and relationship to flourish, it is just too big and unwieldy. Marrickville, Leichhardt and Ashfield are not "one size fits all" areas. While there is some overlap in population background and interests, there are more differences (even in land size, street character, green space as well as income, demographics, aspirations, culture etc etc etc.) Some areas in the IWC feel like they are neglected and unseen (eg St Peters) and other areas appear to receive more attention, funding and services (eg the peninsular suburbs.) This is happening because the council LGA is just too b
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Because I don't believe amalgamation was the way to go
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Because I don't think the council, as it is now takes a fair share of interest in my particular area and concentrates its administration on the Ashfield area.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Because i have seen nothing but a decline in service levels and response times since the merger. On top of that you seek to raise my rates by 20% for doing less, and doing it worse than before. That should be criminal.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Because I think that we should go back to the individual councils managing solo. We go better service.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Because I want a local council to be local.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Because I want the local council we voted for back
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Because I'd be saving money I feel like individual councils would look after their respective communities better
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Because Inner West Council is the worst council in Australia. Perhaps splitting you up and getting rid of dud employees will actually give us back councils that care. The 3 councils within IWC have completely different suburbs with different requirements.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Because it has been hard to get hold of someone at Council to query things with, eg I wanted a space for my kayak - no-one responded to about 5 emails/messages. I really really want the Council Clean-up to come back; it was a terrific way to recycle things as most of the neighbourhood walks around looking at other people's unwanted stuff. There has been a lot of junk just abandoned on the pavements since then - and has been left there for a while I like the idea of having Council members who know our smaller area - the current Inner West council is vast and therefore impersonal and I imagine focussed on cost-savings than serving the people.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Because it is important to have seperate councils in the inner west
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Because it's the best option
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	because Marricville Council worked very efficiently prior to amalgamation ie quicker turn around addressing issues. I also believe Marrickville Council had not been in debt prior to amalgamation. The Inner West Council are is too large to effectively look after one's community. Each area has it's own identity and this should not be compromised.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Because of loss of jobs by Council appointed employees Decrease in representation on Council per ward
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Because southern areas of the Inner West like Tempe still do not get anywhere near the level of simple services (e.g. mowing, bins in parks, trees etc) as places in the north like Balmain and Leichhardt do. Extremely poor customer service and disrespectful staff who don't care about your issues because they are not connected with my local area. I want a stronger voice and better connection with my local representatives. Councillors from other parts of the Inner West do not care about Marrickville and Tempe and surrounds, and visa versa. 3 years in and we are still not getting equivalent services as other parts of the Inner West - e.g. lawns/verges are mowed double as much in the north wards as the south wards, according to published Council data. The three former Councils had strong and effective advocates for their local communities.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Because the amalgamation was a bad idea to start with. The three council area all his different values and objectives which cannot be managed by one council. There has been a decrease Is services such as lawn mowing, park maintenance, hard clean up rubbish collection. I'm sick of issues being reported and little done about them because they are too busy!
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Because the areas of Balmain, Birchgrove and Rozelle are being ignored when Budget is being divided. To spend all this areas money on Dawn Fraser pool that brings in little or no income is appalling. The community is adamant about climate change should get rid of their cars, airconditioning and other guzzling appliances. To address council issues such as lack of parking to order that garages be used for cars not storage perhaps residence if they have one car per household there is an incentive offered Why should vigilantee groups eg - dog walkers, 5 car holders per household be given preference in decision making - eg large sums of money spend on biodegradable bags, painting roads and paths with dog lease requirements. In relation to parking the Council knows which household has more than 1 car and if council approval was given for a garage and more than 1 dog. Perhaps they should be funding parking requirements, mending the roads, and emptying the poo bins over other All of the above goes to inappropriate financial management and other areas such as Marrickville, Ashfield, Petersham taking the biggest slice of the budget money.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Because the bigger Council was forced upon the community Because the larger Council has become a more distant level of government Because the Council is slower to respond, and more bureacratic in response to community needs Because more and more money is spent on senior bureacracts rather than services Because community is lost in a very big Council. I believe Greek philospher Aristotle argued that 50,000 was the largest population that suited democratic involvemement of the population. Our previous Councils were closer to that that the mega-Council of today.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	because the council is now far too large for residents to participate - it is meant to be 'local' governement - theer is now no local in it - meetings do nto allow proper community participation - to register to speak & then to not have an actual dialogue when you do spek makes it meaningless NO real community committees for running our local facilites, such as Clontarf Cottage, Balmain Town Hall Committee, for group poarticilation in environmetn, bike, planning, heritage, social services etc etc committees measn that there is a slow destruction of our social capital. The committees established ask for individuals to apply to be a member for 3 years, meeting abour 4x a year ! hardly community participation when we have 200,000 people - agenda is often maybe not applicable to our locality but that is b COnsultation via an oin-line surbey is NOT consultation,

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
	model proposed now for a meeting in each previous municipality every now & again an exceeding small improvement
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Because the current formation is to large to be representative.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Because the IWC is actively destroying our neighbourhood
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Because the IWC is too large and does not serve the needs of all residents. Services have deteriorated since amalgamation.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Because the service and make contact to have an issue resolved was appalling
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	because the smaller council was more efficient, effective, communicative, committed to our history and amenity. The larger council might be good for the mayor but it has ruined the special nature of Marrickville LGA. The cost to Marrickville includes making up fr the problems with former Ashfield Council The 3 councils that were amalgamated each had their own special personalities and now it's a blob of boredom with silly lip service/ virtue signals to so called special groups and days of celebration.. It seems Marrickville is being left behind in order to subsidise the former Ashfield area and the former Leichhardt LGA. The draft business case for de amalgamation captures nothing of the uniqueness of former Marrickville LGA and probably Leichhardt and Ashfield. It is very poorly written and argued, stating in quite limited way with emotive dismissive words like "perceived" when there is qualitative and quantitative evidence that it is not just a perception about service levels decline. And failing to understand and articulate the real benefits of a real community.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Because there are not enough councillors at the moment and I have had personal experience with them not doing their job effectively. Also it is incredibly undemocratic to amalgamate and it never should have happened. Also, if you look at the best run communities in the world it is abundantly clear that community-led infrastructure is highly beneficial, and that top-down, bureaucratic management doesn't work. It's abundantly clear to me and a number of my neighbours that this is the way things are now.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Because there is no local focus on economic development. Infact quite the opposite! Norton street Leichhardt is an abortion it's ugly with very little parking right support the businesses and especially the restaurants. There is more closed businesses than opened ones. There should be easier regulations like Melbourne to get new businesses opened and trading. The footpaths around Leichhardt are appalling and a hazard.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Because true local council serves us better More efficient and cost effective More personalized to our community

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Because we did not choose to amalgamate Planning & development is terrible with amalgamation Make the council more accountable and closer to the people Inner West Council too big
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Because we have nothing in common with those other council areas I saw that it was a State "disuestra
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Better council pre amalgamation Problems solved more efficiently Local people understanding local issues better
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Better focus on local area services from smaller council. Funds not redistributed to most influential areas.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Better local representation Planning relevant to local area Less power for one council Less chance of corruption
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Better representation
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Better representation though councillors and better responses from staff as they knew the area/suburbs
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Better services and better representation under Marrickville Council. If we continue in IWC, we will be forced to pay higher rates to bail out the mistakes of previous Leichhardt and Ashfield councils.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Better services from former Leichhardt council Local council more responsive to local needs Fewer local reps under amalgamation Loss of annual cleanup services so streets now full of rubbish and no community recycling
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Better services provided under old council The Leichhardt council area is the forgotten area of the inner West council The primary focus is the inner West council is the marrickville area. Discrimination
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Better waste collection management Cleaner streets and parks Quicker graffiti removal
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Big council removes local perspective Dysfunction of IWC Unfair distribution of rates Reduction in services across the board Ongoing costs (assuming NSW govt contributes to costs of deamalgamation)
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Centralization is less resilient to shocks (economic, environment, social) Centralized council is easier to corrupt by the economic players We have much less say with a centralized council Services are not outstanding anyway so decentralization won't make it much worse $87/$287 per residents for financial neutrality is not that much
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Change in policy regarding tree clearing

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Character and needs of our area/council differ from the other areas Performance of Council in the smaller area was more accountable to local residents I believe budgets and management areas of responsibility are too big in the amalgamated council group Larger Council looses local representation of the respective areas Since amalgamation communication and accountability has markedly dropped off.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Cleanliness of the area was noticeably poorer during the amalgamated time. General repairs to infrastructure seemed slower.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Closer alignment to local needs
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Concerned that council has become too large, losing focus on local issues.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Costs have gone up Services have gotten worse
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Could not see any benefits from amalgamation
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Council is corrupt and not delivering a good service
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Council is too big and does not appreciate the difference Rd my suburb cultures. The inner west aquatics amalgamations have destroyed community feel, and is run for coaches and not kids.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Council is too big and has become depersonalised. Council is way too political Certain councillors use the size of council to boost personal profile Council majority is focussed on what is best for the party and not what is best for residents. Resident numbers justify smaller council e.g. compare Balmain resident numbers to Hunters Hill local government numbers.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Council needs to get back to its core values; waste collection, road maintenance, footpath maintenance, etc.ce, rubbish and weed removal from streets, rubbish and weed removal from streets, park maintenance, street lighting, etc Other non local govt agendas need to be cancelled, ie grants, asylum seekers, art grants, festivals that serve no value to community. Our rates cannot support these activities, these should be the domain of the State and Federal Govt. Too many councilors, to mush bickering, too much politics. The Council should not be political, all parties should be banned, the mayor should be chosen by the people. No greens, labor, liberal parties, all should be banned. Independents only please.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Council no longer represents my community or issues specific to my community. Have not experienced improved services. Have witnessed appalling outcomes for trees.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Council service is not as good under the larger IWC. The Counsellors have to represent too many residents. In 2006 Marrickville Council successfully assisted me with a community matter but now I wouldn't bother a busy Councillor unless it was an urgent matter. Since IWC was formed Council has had 3 different General Managers which must be difficult for staff to having to adjust to different managers. Majority of residents want local government to mean LOCAL. In the larger IWC a major represents far more residents and can exercise control over important community matters like the demerger issue. The Mayor & the ALP Councillors do not want to emerge & with their power can manipulate the whole process. Many in the community do not accept the data from the Morrison Low report commissioned by the Mayor & the ALP Councillors. The community wants an independent report by an expert in local government. Council's decision to meet only monthly increases a Mayor's power along with his/her voting group while at the same time reduces residents input & power. Commy matters should not be delayed waiting for a mthly meeting. Commy Forums and Local Democracy Grps are useful but it is in Council meetings where decisions are made.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Council services have reduced drastically in Petersham Street scapes are only looked after in Petersham once every 4-6 weeks instead of fortnightly in the past Visited Balmain and seen where all our rates are going, looks magnificent whereas Marrickville Council area does not. Complained of over development and the impact on traffic for several developments but theyve gone ahead despite even Council finding streets were already saturated before development - RSL prime example
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Council should be non political General council standards have in most cases changed dramatically There seems to be no accountability with employees ,especially the higher up positions.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Council should be non political. Party politics should be banned within council. council has become a vehicle for personal power and career ambitions. There is no place in council for party politics. Councils need to be small and local. Big councils and centralisation is not good for local communities. Big councils cost a lot of money our rate payers money. Councils need to get back to their core services: road & path maintenance + cleanlyness. Waste collection. Parks + gardens. They have been sorely neglected, just look around, look at the state of our roads. We the people should be able to choose the mayor we want. The mayors term should be limited to 1 term of 2 years.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Council staff who were not familiar with Balmain and fobbed off community requests. A marked increase in Council's response times to issues requiring council action Loss of records of previous council's plans and no commitment to fulfilling them A marked reduction in maintenance

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
	of footpaths and parks. Giving priority to income generation rather than community interests or needs
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Council was more accessible before Rates went UP after amalgamation It was forced upon us
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Council's financial performance, maintenance performance and customer service are far worse than under the single Leichhardt council
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Current lack of councillors for the amount of residents living in innerwest council Reduction in reliable services such as rubbish collection since amalgamation The fact that innerwest council has been growing in debt since the amalgamation The councillors currently represent areas in which they do not live and know the issues of Reduction in maintenance of local public facilities, green spaces and open spaces.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Day-to-day problems in Balmain-Rozelle-Lilyfield differ from areas like Ashfield and Marrickville , each having its own priorities.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	De-amalgamation is a waste of money. You lose efficiencies gained by running a bigger Council organisation. You get more Councillors if you de-amalgamate, the last thing we need is more politicians.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Decentralise service provision to make it more relevant for each community
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Decline in maintenance of parks esp Pioneer Park Declining communication with council Lack of engagement with community Library service focused on activities and DVDs audio which is ok but seems to have at the expense of books. New titles seem to be slower getting to the shelves and while there are sometimes rather obscure books the range isn’t as good as it was a decade or months ago Loss of council cleanups
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Decline in services since amalgamation
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Decrease in service levels since amalgamation Lack of responsiveness from IWC - has become a large dysfunctional bureaucracy
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Decrease rates - not harmonise and lead to increases Have a local say by local council on local matters Promote and develop public open spaces in immediate neioghbourhoods Reduce red tape and inefficiency that has increased with amalgamation Return the Council to its local residents and affairs
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Degradation of services since amalgamation
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Derogation of garbage services More rubbish on local streets Higher fees

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Desire for more dedicated council with a better understanding of the local area
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Did not agree with original merger
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Didn’t agree with the amalgamation of councils in the first place.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Didn’t support the reason why the councils were initially amalgamated by state govt for cost cutting etc Smaller councils allow more attention to detail and several issues have been ignored by council
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Dilution of council’s ability to attend to important matters
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Dire need for improvement only with deamalgamation Dire need for a council to focus on serving its residents
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	dissatsified with iWC services, across the board. Ratio of councillors to resaidents too great and not allowing for proper access ands input thus not good representation. Service has decreased acroos all areas facilities not maintained as per prev. 3 councils' structures within council ineffective--prev. local outdoor maintenance groups did a cycle of the suburbs within L M C maintaining parks, toilets playgrounds, gardens etc and responded v quickly to requests for action when required some councillors "fight" for attention so go for discussing matters within council meetings that will get a media grab rather than being a matter of significance tom quality of life for residents council passes motions--over prev 6 years, 212--that get media coverage but don't actually occur. The allocated funds seem to just sit in the ether and get "respent" on another pet announcement of a particular councillor or political party. when we were a separate council this was far less likely to occur and residents were much closer to their councillors and able to have input and pursue accountabilityu--overall this lacks accountability
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Diverse needs of the inner west
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	downturn in services since the amalgamation proposed dramatic increase in rates
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Efficient funding. Better understanding of local issues by local representatives
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Elected representatives represent their ward, not the whole Council The Mayor favours the Balmain Ward The former Marrickville Council was much more effecient The new Council is not innovative

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Extraordinary waiting times for responses to enquiries Poor representation Council is clearly overloaded with tasks Council appears to have zero interest in local issues
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Failed to see any benefits
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Far far too much emphasis was given to the assumption that quantifiable financial benefits/savings would be achieved by amalgamation. Very little quantitative benefit was achieved, and the qualitative benefits were non-existent. I like having accessible elected representatives whose role is to concentrate on issues relevant to the immediate area in which my family and I live. The iwc is far too large, the agenda is too unwieldy, the councillors have responsibility for decisions effecting large numbers of people
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	felt like we were smaller in the bigger council. rubbish collection timings changed after amalgamation, resulting in bins being longer out on the street and more rubbish
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Firstly I'd like to point out the wording of that vote was confusing Most people didn't know what it meant I don't feel like the council has time to focus on the small things when it's so big
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Focus on our council area & to make our local council accountable in the area
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	For better representation And because I never supported the forced amalgamation
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	For greater efficiency For greater accountability For greater access to decision making centres Local councils for local issues
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	For greater representation of community by local councillors (higher ratio of councillor per residents) and better alignment of council priorities to take advantage of resident participation.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	For residents of Balmain/Birchgrove/Leichhardt it is most difficult to attend council meetings in Ashfield. The IWC is so large that all matters cannot be addressed in one meeting and after residents have made the journey to Ashfield they find their item is referred to next meeting. For a return to consistency of maintenance in particular the relationship between council workers and their area eg maintenance of parks rather than the "slash and burn" that often operates at present. Leichhardt Council was the best managed and the most financially secure council before amalgamation
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Give us back our council!

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Greater access to Council Greater attention to local services by council Local identity
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Greater representation
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Had better service before and stronger representation
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Having a bigger say in how the community is managed Need to protect and maintain heritage standards
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Heritage Environmental Traffic Transport Politics
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Hoping a better distribution of funding between the three councils will improve each area better.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Horrible maintenance of the suburb especially the park, I grew up in this area and it has never been this bad my family is considering moving. Very upsetting for a suburb I once loved.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I loved Leichhardt council they provided services for the disabled... I havent been able to attend anything under this new mob. I need it to be in Leicchardt or Balmain or other accessible by bus [place.. everything is in marrickville .. at least to buses... always on really early or late.....just doesnt work
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	i am better represented and can participate in person at a local council. I don't feel represented by our Mega Council , especially now when we need support against the Harbour Tunnel underneath Balmain. the IWC didn't help at all during the West Connex disaster.I also don't understand why there is another survey. More than 60% of the IWC population has already voted for deamalgamation.We don't want any more surveys, we have spoken!!!Go on with the job and do it!
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I am concerned by theower level of representation for rate payers I believe heritage standards have not been as strictly maintained by the IWC
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I am very dissatisfied with the IWC's past lack of response to problems I have raised in the past. The IWC's lack of duty of care regarding the planting of inappropriate trees in local parks that are causing damage to residents (and also to my) houses IWC's design of dangerous street and footpath structures being a danger to traffic. Waste of ratepayers' money in promoting events that I am not interested in. There is no rates relief for aged pensioners; they now pay the FULL amounts for property rates.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I believe deamalgamation to be more cost efficient and more democratic.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I believe local communities and council areas are served better by individual council area
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I believe locals should decide local issues.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I believe that a deamalgamated council can better address local issues and be held more accountable.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I believe that Leichhardt council was able to deliver services most effectively in the smaller community. Now the Inner West council is too large and covers localities that we have no connection with and are supporting less efficient councils through the amalgamation.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I believe that we got better attention as a stand alone council
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I believe we would revive better service. I don't mind if that means we pay more.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I believed it would be abetter outcome however after further thought i don't believe the cost of it will recoup the benefits.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I consider all services have deteriorated With Leichhardt council we had local democracy, I consider ratepayers are not sufficiently represented.d I think Inner West Council should proceed with the de amalgamation. The ratepayers have spoken and their wished should not be ignored, even if the Council does not wish to de amalgamate.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I consider the amalgamation a costly exercise which has produced a decline in services and facilities in the former Marrickville LGA.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I did not see why we then Premier Baird made councils amalgamate - there didn't seem to be any advantage to Leichhardt Council which I believe was financially run well. I prefer more local representation.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I didn't realise what a waste of money a de-amalgamation would be Please use our rates for ACTUAL improvements to the inner west, this is like digging a hole and filling in the hole, the.mn digging the hole again Can you please spend this money on improving the traffic snarls
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	i didn't agree with NSW Govt forced amalgamations

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I don't believe that the amalgamated council has provided any tangible benefit for the community in the inner west. The council's focus has been diluted in many areas and therefore things aren't getting done that should be done. The inner west council appeared on the surface to be against Westconnex, but in reality did little to push back against it. This highlights the weakness in having a council that is not close enough to local issues to make a real difference in supporting the community. This survey by the inner west council is very misleading and the following questions regarding options are biased heavily biased towards no amalgamation. This scare mongering about higher costs and less service demonstrates the that the current council is not neutral on this issue and wants to stay amalgamated.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I dont think it is to our advantage to be in with Ashfield and Marrickville I think standards have dropped since amalgamation and there doesn't seem to have been any cost savings I dont think Council should have a political agenda and question the "rush" for the current amalgamation Council meetings are not easy to attend and too vast an agend to be able to have my say I want a more local involvement - care for our community its people and its surrounds
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I feel it is better for the heritage and being more hands In each area rather than a ltger area
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I feel like services were more efficient before the merger. Now things take ages, grass growing long, no more annual clean up. However, if I had known the cost and red tape of de-merging then I would have voted against it. I feel a lot of people made an ill-informed choice. Much rather money and attention be focussed and making services more efficient and helping homeless people who are out there freezing right now.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I feel that council services have dropped and suffered due to the amalgamation
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I feel we have a better service with our own Leichhardt council. We have a council & workers who care about our area & listen to our local concerns The amalgamation is just too big.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I followed the crowd without thinking it through. Having read the Inner West Council Draft De-amalagamation Business Case flyer I now would vote to leave the council as it now is, amalagamated, The Inner West Council.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I had a look at the pros and cons Less representation is not better Super councils in other LGAs proved to be worse off and less efficient You can have services across areas and still have smaller councils Services overall been worse the website is clunky and bad

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I have been very displeased with the poor quality of service since amalgamation. There are fewer staff than ever to respond to issues, and I feel that issues relating to my neighbourhood are consistently overlooked. I am paying higher rates that is going towards the improvement of other suburbs whilst my own suburb of Rozelle is being neglected.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I have experienced a noticeable drop of considered, area specific leadership and service to my suburb since Council merged The heritage of Marrickville, and respect and value for tree canopy has dropped since Council merged Many of the community outreach programs, and key Council staff that supported those programs, were lost after the merger
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I have seen service levels drop significantly since amalgamation. Grass verges no longer mowed frequently, so residents have had to buy mowers Attempting to get some info through GIPA almost impossible. Instead of a 20 day response, mine was nearly 65. Don't feel any connection with the enlarged council Too far away, too few councillors.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I prefer a local council that answers my questions and treats me with respect, not a large council that is impersonal and slow to act. I prefer to have my suburb as 1 ward rather than being split in 2. I prefer the ratio of councillors to people that existed pre-amalgamation. I have less representation now.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I prefer a more Democratic and local approach
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I prefer to have Leichhardt Council back rather than a huge council over very different areas. I have had better and quicker access to the previous Leichhardt Council and want that back. I beliebve that Leichhardt is a smaller and unique area and having its own council will be better. There are issues here in Birchgrove that have been side lined by IWC and would be taken care of by a smaller LC.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I preferred the way Council managed the Ashfield Council Area. The amalgamation seemed to ignore the local issues
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I see changes that I don’t agree with that would never have happened under Leichhardt council. Many of my fellow Balmain people seemed to feel the same. This was forced on us and would never have occurred otherwise. Local areas have become more crucial since COVID.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I strongly support the right of residents in the former Marrickville, Ashfield and Leichhardt LGAs to democratically determine their own representation. We were never allowed to vote on the original amalgamation process, despite the fact that most residents clearly did not support it proceeding. Further, the new amalgamated council has resulted in less democratic accountability, as fewer councillors representing a

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
	larger population are less responsive to local residents' views and concerns. The quality of service
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I think the council would be run better if it was more local
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I think the original council served community lot more effectively then the larger super council
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I thought it would be good to have more local representation on council I didn't realise it would be very costly to deamalgamate.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I thought that a smaller more focused council would be better for the Leichardt area.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I thought that de-a.algamation would be desirable for our local area, but on reflection I no longer believe this is so. As the 3 former councils have been integrated into IWC, they have ceased to exist as separate entitiesd After 6 years of amalgamation and presumably millions of dollars spent, their eir services, systems and employees now only exist as IWC and spent, their services, communication systems, employees and other features of local government exist only as IWC, and you cannot "unscramble the egg"! In short, the proposed de-amalgamation is a pipedream whi h is neither desirable nor possible, in my opinion.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I voted that way because I have attended some IWC meetings and compared them with LMC meetings and subcommittee meetings involving community membership. Community involvement on matters such as the creation of the community open space next to the Balmain Post Office and of Ballast Point Park would, I suggest, never have been possible if left to the IWC.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I voted to de-amalgamate because I am not happy with the loss of local representation that occurred with the merger. I do not feel we can pertichiate in local issues in the way we sta before. Our mega council is far too big and the issues we each have in our old council areas are not the same across the board. The former three councils that were forcefully merged against the wishes of the residents were much more connected with the residents of each area and we had more Councillors to be our voice. Now it is much
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I want better service like before. I want my councillor to know my area and fix problems like they did before we were Inner West.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I want local back in council. I want the councilors to be aware of local needs and who live locally.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I want to be able to attend council meetings in my local area I want my Councillors to be local, my neigbours and to have intimate and invested knowledge of our local area Leichhardt Council had much better financial management than Inner West Council. Services were much better with Leichhardt Council I felt that I was respected and treated as a valued local resident with Leichhardt Council, with Inner West Council I am just a number and council staff don't respect residents - they run the show now. The council is no longer run by the community.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I want to de-amalgamate Current amalgamated council service very poor
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I want to return to Leichhardt Council where I have a voice and Iam listened to, valued with smaller council I am not happy with mega Inner West Council administration and services Leichhardt Council was as close as it gets to being a genine local democracy. All of this has been lost with Inner West Council Politics stole our Leichhardt Council from my community. I want it returned Yes Poll overhwelming confirms the communitie's wishes across all three council areas to de-amalgamate from IWC
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I was happier with the service of the original Leichhardt council
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I was happy with the level of service prior to the amalgamation I feel the councils were pressured to amalgamate when the didn’t want too.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I was happy with the performance of Marrickville council and enjoyed the easy access I had to councillors who could focus on smaller areas I am unhappy with the ability for the correct council to respond to the competing needs of the various ares that now make up the correct council I was happy with the performance of the Marrickville Council The needs of my community in Tempe are very different to those of Balmain, Leichhardt and Ashfield I am unhappy that we were forced to take on the deby of other councils
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I was in Marrickville council previously. Services such as rubbish collection and street sweeping were much better. I feel like Inner West Council is too big and smaller suburbs such as mine, St Peters, have been ignored/neglected. Especially in the wake of Westconnex
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I was very satisfied and proud of Marrickville Council I felt like I was being gerrymandered by Mike Baird's government I felt that I had lost represention in council I did not believe that rates would not rise with amalgamation, and they did, of course
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I went into the polling booth uneducated and didn’t know what I was voting for Lack of knowledge Had seen signs and assumed that’s what the community wanted

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I will have more say into what happens in my community
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I would like more tailored services
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	I'm a great believer in the meaning of local! I would like to see the number of local councillors return to what it was before amalgamation. I would like the frequency of council meetings to increase so my local issues get proper attention. I would like to ensure that council services are not outsourced or reduced. I believe real resident involvement is more likely under de-amalgamation
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Improved local representation Service level improvements Self-determination of priorities Self-determination of funding allocation Better alignment to community interests
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Improved local representation. The inner west is a large area. The needs of all residents cannot be met equally in all areas. Favouritism to certain areas within the current inner west council regarding development and funding. It's spread to thin.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	In my experience, smaller local government is better
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	In the hope of better focused service for residents and business'. Ashfield and Marrickville are far too dictatorial with too many rules and regulations. Merging all 3 councils gives local residents less chance of desired outcomes. Marrickville is far too "green" and Ashfield too regulatory for Leichhardt residents.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Incompetence of Council Senior Executives, Directors, CEOs and Councillors
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Inconsistent street mowing, change to council rubbish collection, picking up dumped cars,
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	increase in council rates loss of local services
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Increased costs and lower service
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Inefficient and illegal. And even if the current council was ok, the fact they are blocking de-amalgamation would make me vote for it
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	inefficient maintenance of streets, footpaths inefficient maintenance of parks and street trees organisation is too large to function efficiently Staff unrest too little community input specific to local areas

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Inferior service to that provided by former Leichhardt Council Little community of interest with Ashfield and Marrickville Lower level of involvement with/from local Councillors Spending on infrastructure in my suburb appears to have declined significantly Staff at the former Leichhardt Customer Service Centre at least answered the phone promptly
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Inner West Council has continually failed to perform.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Inner West Council is inefficient. It favour the citizens of former Leichhardt (Council)over those in former Marrickville and Ashfield Councils Councillors vote along party lines and not in the best interests of the locals The Inner West Council is too large.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Inner West Council lacks representation, it is largely controlled by Leichardt and doesn't represent the interest of those in the former Marrickville Council. The Amalgamation was a bad idea forced on the residents by a stupid state government on the premise of improved services. The fact is that services have decreased and fees are significantly higher.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Inner West Council was a forced amalgamation to undermine anti-WestConnex activist Councils IWC is too big - parts of Municipality miss out on any attention Park and green space maintenance has suffered Garbage services less reliable Economies of scale a myth - IWC has massive debt
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Inner West Council's mayor and level of services are below my level of expectations and at higher costs compared to preamalgamation.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Innerwest Council's services have declined to an extremely unacceptable level.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	It always felt like a decision that was forced on the council by the liberal government. They always have bad intentions for our area so I assumed the opposite of what they want will align with my values
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	It became difficult to deal with Inner West in person, especially with DA's etc. During Covid, Ashfield was too hard to access in person. Also

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	It feels like Marrickville has joined Leichhardt Council area. It does not feel like an amalgamation of 3 councils but an invite to M'ville and Ashfield to join Leichhardt Council. Many jobs were lost when the amalgamation happened and now Inner West Council tries to tell us that if we de-amalgamate jobs will be lost due to infrastructure - UNTRUE! Jobs will be re-created again. Marrickville needs to be its own council. We are a large area as it is and cannot be managed efficiently from the amalgamated council. Our parks, footpaths etc are all overgrown and uncared for. At least when we were Marrickville Council we saw some maintenance of our parks and streets - now I see nothing! I don't know why the amalgamation took place in the first place. What a waste of resources that were already working efficiently.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	It seems that Council services (waste collection, pavement maintenance are two things that spring to mind) have suffered since the amalgamation.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	It was a bad idea and services dropped afterwards
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	It was a better, more effective system previously. With more direct grass roots community involvement action and results relevant to local needs.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	It was a dodgy political move
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	It was clear about the benefits and cost savings to local community
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	It was forced
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	It was illegal in the first place Local services have significantly declined since amalgamation
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	It's more cost-effective and ensures that urban intensification can happen sustainably.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Its not working
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	IWC drastically reduced the representation of ex-Leichhardt residents from 15 to 6. Further for some inexplicable reason it disbanded the precinct committees It also disbanded the local resident management/advisory committees IWC has become invisible to many of its resdents.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	IWC has ignored Newtown and it is in a terrible state.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	IWC has proved to be highly inefficient, wasting taxpawers money, running at a loss, increasing debt and not delivering the purported amalgamation benefits. Residents are ignored by the IWC as politics and infighting dominated council. Services have suffered and rates have increased with no benefit to residents. Council has become too big to manage, ignoring residents and being dominated by ideology.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	IWC is a farce Peter Gainsford is unsuitable to be a GM rates have gone up 15 to 20 % Haberfield is not protected
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	IWC is inferior in every way to Leichhardt Council. Residents are treated with disdain. Residents have less representation. Computer system is a huge tangled mess that is often not working. IWC has become just another corporate entity and it's impossible to get through to someone to answer a question or listen to your concerns. Basically IWC is simply DISINTERESTED in resident's problems.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	IWC is to big and services have declined in Marrickville our street storm drains have not been cleared since 2016 Harnett Ave
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	IWC is too big Councillors have too many residents to be effective. Very poor maintenance of roads parks footpaths buildings
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	IWC is too large and it is not possible for councillors to adequately support residents. Services (garbage collection etc) have not improved. IWC has not conformed to its own policies (has removed trees unnecessarily) There is over-representation of political parties on council, these are not relevant to local government.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	IWC stinks Poor services Mayor does not listen totally ignores any emsils Mayor is only concerned about himsel Mayor totally ignored his constituents
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	IWC was foisted on residents without an opportunity to vote Services have declined, everything is pushed to the user unfriendly website. Things that took 10 minutes in a Council office now take days or weeks via the website. Complaint handling is bureaucratic and unresponsive.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	KEEP IT LOCAL, CHANGE BOUNDARIES TO FIT NATURAL LANDSCAPES. My position on council boundaries in 2016 was that they should be based on river catchments as far as practicable. I believe boundary changes should be for realigning that way while staying local. I wrote to Linda Burney, my state member at the time, about it and told Cr Stott after Ashfield's final meeting but didn't argue for it at public meetings because I thought it wasn't an option. It was relevant, my head wasn't screwed on. In its submission to th “BACKFLIP” WITHOUT COMMUNITY ASSENT. At a small Town Hall meeting a c JUST GET BACK TO HOW WE SHOULD HAVE REMAINED. It's extraordinary how politicians make the worst decisions in the face of better knowledge and walk away from the bad outcomes without being brought to account, no apologies even. I wanted my vote for deamalgamation last year to tidy up the mess and view the whole stuff-up as a bad joke. § The pretext was that councillors would have to give way to an administrator and that happened anyway. I read more recently that Cr Byrne said the big infrastructure debts (swimmin CARNIVAL OF CULTURES, LOCAL IDENTITY AND SHARED BELONGING, GONE. Those first three reasons reflect considerations in 2016. This fourth reason comes here because it was in 2017 that I saw what amalgamation had done to Ashfield's Carnival of Cultures. Totally killed it, which spells out more clearly than any other consideration what a disaster amalgamation has proven to be. § There wasn't the continuous stream of people between the rows of stalls at Ashfield Park, there wasn't anything like the number of stalls. N LOST SERVICES AND UNWANTED SERVICES. Disconnection between Council staff and residents is another reason for a deamalgamate vote. I don't know staff feelings but familiar faces at front desks is better from my point of view than unfamiliar staff each time. Long waits for phone responses have been bad, better more recently, but not as responsive as Ashfield Council had been. § What service one of the original councils received, everyone now receives, eg, contractors cutting verges. It's a bad service. Too infrequ
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Lack of representation. Councillors who do not identify with the local area. Down grade of services in parks and streets. Poor service interactions Less community involvement
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Lack of services since amalgamation Too much infighting with Leichhardt since merge More money and services go to Leichhardt One week they plant things next week they spray weedkiller on them - total lack of communication in too large a council Marrickville Council looked after this area since amalgamation we are last for anything
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Large council not as effective as smaller council Councillors paid much more than before, especially mayor (for part time position) Very wide area with differing needs/costs

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Leichhardt Council delivered services well and were focussed on the immediate community Council was well managed. Rates were reasonable.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Leichhardt council services were more efficient than inner west council. Bigger is not always better and loses local perspective. Inner west is a collection of villages and should be appreciated as such. Local quality of services need to have a value in the budget figures.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Leichhardt under Cr Byrne gets majority of favours, followed by Ashfield then Marrickville comes last!
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	less local say to council
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	LGA to have better identity Access to parking
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Liked the service pre-amalgamation
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Local council is meant to deal with local issues Local council is meant to represent local people not misaligned areas that happen to be close to one another
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Local council understands local needs It was forced on us
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Local democracy and accountability Sound fiscal management Effective and timely execution of projects Council area now WAAAAY too bi
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Local Government is the closest of all three tiers to those it must represent. To achieve this Local Government must be focused. That focus can only happen if Local Government is truly local, the way it was before amalgamation.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Local Government should be local Costs savings do not seem to have been made Our local area was better cared for under Marrickville Council Local knowledge of services and infrastructure is better retained The area is intensely populated and bigger government means less representation
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Local services not being provided Current Mayor does not portray my values of good leadership
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Loss of local advisory groups loss of local access to council staff useless council website loss of garbage /recycling calendar
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Loss of local area identiy - The homoganization of services means that no one ends up being happy with the result.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Loss of Suburb Character UnSustainable Rate Rises

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Make it small and organize council in the community
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Marrickville Council delivered a reasonable service for reasonable rates
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Marrickville Council provided great service. IWC seems to prioritise the Leichhardt area Noticeable reduction of services to Marrickville Council area We are the forgotten zone
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Marrickville Council provided local Councillors representing local issues and I believe IWC is not listening to the overwhelmingly majority of residents who voted for Marrickville, Ashfield & Leichardt Councils back. We were given no say in the creation of the IWC but voted clearly for its de-amalgamation.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Marrickville Council was a viable independent coucil The efficiency of the council is compromised by the partner councils There is a need to increase focus on Marrickville council issues Local councils are very important and they need focus on a region with specific local issues relevant to rate payers Rates in Marrickville go up whilst our other partner councils are generally better off.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Marrickville Council was better than Inner West Council
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Marrickville Council was far better. Services were far better eg verges maintained and far easier to reach in the phone. Better removal of tagging too. Since amalgamation this has dropped dramatically. Also we were abandoned during Westconnex construction and still don't get enough help.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Marrickville Council was supportive of arts & artists whereas not on inner west council's priorities. Also the rich multi cultural character is so important locally & nationally Marrickville has become 'gentrified' in the last 10 years or so but retains a friendly community & is a great example of integration alongside respect of cultural differences. Marrickville Needs it's own Council to focus on these very particular values, opportunities, insights and creativity.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Marrickville is a huge suburb with unique needs. It is no unreasonable to want our own council back.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Marrickville needs a separate council to preserve its heritage and character
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Marrickville town maintenance has reduced significantly since amalgamation More focus is needed on individual suburbs Marrickville is a large suburb and needs a dedicated council

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Marrickville was previously viable and in a good financial position. We are now the 'poor relation' to a Leichhardt-centric council. The IWC LGA is now large and unwieldy The merger caused upheaval and people with important local knowledge were 'lost' - local issues are now often managed without any local knowledge or understanding. Services have declined generally and the place as a whole is neglected and shabby Response time to services issues have declined greatly
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Money and project seemed to be spend predominately in Marrackville area and to a lesser extent Leichhardt with Ashfield paying for these so-called improvements. I was also very disappointed by council's reliance on information baing only available on their website with no consideration given to those in the community that had no access to this. An example is about household rubbish collection when the policy changed and there was no longer a six-monthly cleanup
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	More individual service for Inner West residents Provision of more localised infrastructure Accessibility of Councillors Improved speediness of services
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	more local councillors know area rates can be set controll over development
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	More personal to get things done.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	More representative of local interests More effective as such Fewer residents to each councillor
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	My area has had significant drop in services and maintenance. The larger council is focussed on "higher end" areas such as Balmain, Enmore side of Marrickville, etc to the detriment of other areas. Chasing up services has become much more complex and it's clear the scope is too large for council to manage. Overall, my rates go to supporting services in overserviced areas, whilst some areas are neglected.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	My area saw the greatest rates increase yet our closest council office closed. It felt like reduced service for greater cost. I want the council to reflect the values of my local area. This is not as achievable with a larger, less representative council catchment.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	My choice
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	My experience of both separate and amalgamated local councils has been a much more efficient system before amalgamation
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	My preference

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	My prerogative
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Need for Council to be focussed on a smaller area to ensure all services are delivered satisfactorily
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Never should have amalgamated. Mike Baird corruption. Lack of services that used to be standard Lack of contact avenues, council is detached from local area Development allowed that should have been stopped but council spread too thin Wasted funds on programs to make councillors look good
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Newtown seems to be neglected in the services it gets. I would prefer Newtown return to Marrickville as one option. My preferred option is that Newtown be shifted into the City of Sydney so that it has a single Council managing it. To date, those on the City of Sydney have found services and maintenance to be superior to Inner West council and that City of Sydney is better for business. Newtown would be better off in City of Sydney
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	No consultation re initial amalgamation
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	no improvements observed -rates up, garbage not always collected, roads need repairs, need more green spaces
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	No obvious benefit from the amalgamation, and certainly no apparent improvements in efficiency de facto, the Council still runs at 3 sites eg for Planning and DAs, Libraries so no obvious difference rate equivalence has still not been established the larger Council creates under representation by Councillors
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	None of the supposed benefits of amalgamation have materialised. The performance of basic functions of council have dropped since amalgamation.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Not happy with the amalgamation
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	NOt happy with the current state of affairs harder to discuss and resolve problems in smaller areas such as Newtown-Enmore
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Not seeing any benefits of amalgamation
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Our area needs its own council to concentrate on our area and have a better service rather than too many areas in one council.Also have our own council office in our area. own

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Our area's needs are no longer adequately represented or attended to since the amalgamation One council for such disparate suburbs:areas is ridiculous and it isn't working
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Our democracy was undermined Funds taken from one area to pay for people in harbour side property Council staff using anti democratic tactics to stop the demerger out of selfishness Demerger and return marrickville to the locals
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	our services have suffered our rates have increased with worse services efficiency has descreased local representation is not addressed
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Outstanding service under the previous structure. Better representation.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Planning controls have disappeared Rates have increased under harmonisation
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Poor leadership then not fighting against amalgamation when many other councils were successful in remaining separate. The same leader (successfully charged by NCAT for abuse of position) is now hampering the process to demerger to maintain his empire. This is despite commenting publicly their party would support the residents decision which was 62.5% in favour of demerger. This survey is an example of trying to change the decision. Touted benefits of amalgamation have not materialised - experienced staff forced out by the current mayor (how many GM's and the cost with that) along with significant level of debt incurred Services have significantly decreased in the former Marrickville LGA compared to what was previously enjoyed, and we had the lowest rates and the highest (or second highest) level of profitability. Staff were extremely helpful and looked to find solutions, which is definitely not the situation now. The most unreadable logo ever, and a website that is not user and mobile friendly.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Poor maintenance of street verges and parks and street cleaning. Marrickville Council did a far better job
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Poor mgmt of Pioneers Park Reduced verge mowing service Cancelled six monthly rubbish pick ups with poor comms and no follow up waste education officers Obvious mgmt and funding bias towards former Marrickville LGA
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Poor performance of new council
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Poor rubbish collection Poor and infrequent verge, tree and road maintenance Too many contractors. Council should hire locals who care about their LGA. Too much money and attention on fringe groups instead

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
	of providing good services that benefit the whole community. Council has taken on even more state and federal responsibilities
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Prefer decisions to be made locally at the lowest level possible.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Prefer not to say
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	preferred Marrickville Council, had great environmental policies and more don't want to be tied to the other councils, their debt and mismanagement. IWC meetings have been unprofessional, appalling and dysfunctional. local council should be local.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Prevent future further amalgamation into a completely centralised local council
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Previous Ashfield council had strong heritage/ planning controls. Since the combining of councils the stringent regulations previously held have just disappeared
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Previous Leichhardt Council was run more efficiently and was more accessible to the ratepayers. Councillors were more representative of their precincts and involved in local issues. Services like waste collection, recycling and household pickups managed more effectively. Library staff not rotated as frequently and more committed to local libraries.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	primarily to retain good access to council. this completely disappeared after amalgamation
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Prior to amalgamation, Ashfield Council was always in the 'black'....
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Rate payers had no say to amalgamate, it was forced upon us. Amalgamating was an act of sabotage to enable WestConnex. It was a criminal disgrace.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Re focus on the requirements for the Balmain community
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Really the principle, Premier Baird saying no councils need amalgamate Then Premier Baird enforcing amalgamation Then the compensation fiasco/pork barreling Forcing residents is not the way to gain trust and acceptance for a new and enlarged community Voting for de-amalgamation is my way of saying I have morals
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	reduced representation with IWC
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Reduction in representation. Administrative headquarters of council move further from where I live.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Resented imposition of merger which resulted in reduced say in, and access to, Council
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Residents had no say in the amalgamation and Didnt want it. This was the only opportunity to express that.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	See question 8b.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Seeking more local representation
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Seemed good idea
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Self determination is vital in a democratic society
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Service decline when amalgation occurred Used to attend council meetings on occasion but no longer had access because the meetings were no longer close to home
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Service delivery has declined markedly ie roads & gutters remain damaged & litter uncollected including leaf litter plus roadside stormwater drains clogged High cost of Ashfield aquatic centre which I will never use or see or benefit from Unwieldy size means bi-yearly rubbish collection in former Leichhardt council area discontinued These collections were a source of indirect recycling as junk was repurposed by scavengers IWC base now Petersham not Leichhardt Town Hall so inconvenient without car
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Service has declined since amalgamation Petersham seems to be forgotten
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Service has seriously deteriorated
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Service is worse Not sure who appointed arrogant Byrne Byrne seems useless Amalgamation obviously made certain individuals pocket money
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Service level has gone down since amalgamation Our sense of community has been lost I feel like a very small fish in a big pond so matters go astray Not getting our moneys worth, I'd rather pay more with deamalgamtion and know I get value for my money
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Service levels dropped considerably to unacceptable levels Council costs/debt is worse Reduced engagement/connection between council/councilors and residents. Council is now as anonymous as the state government State of public spaces Lack of progress on any real amalgamation/alignment while costs increase and service levels drop

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Service levels from Marrickville Council were better
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Service levels have dropped Never given a choice on amalgamation Parlours financial state of IWC Lack of community engagement and transparency by IWC
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Services are getting worse Rates are increasing Amalgamation decreases democracy
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Services below par since amalgamation Council focusing on too many State issues Expenditure not in Marrickville or my area - all Balmain and Leichhardt
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Services declined under the amalgamated council system. There were issues around rate harmonisation, and councillor responsiveness around local (suburb based) issues declined. There were also significant issues regarding the ethical standards of the former, and now current, mayor, Darcy Byrne, not seeming to understand his obligations as a councillor, which led to a significant decrease in confidence and trust in the overall mayorship. Bring back localised councils that are responsive to local issues raised by
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Services have decreased Increase local representation for your local area
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Services in Marrickville have clearly deteriorated since amalgamation. More and more frequently rubbish bins remain uncollected Rangers do not exist anymore as far as dealing quickly with monotoring breaches of DAs , operating hours, Opposition from residents to inappropriate DAs is nless likely to be supported by Council since deamalgamation State Government has taken over approval/overriding of major "developments" even if IWC has objected Councillors are fewer representing more voters. This means they are less able to be contacted and actually work for constituents. Full time Mayor acts more like someone who has too much power and money invested in one person.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Services In Tempe have worsened since amalgamation Inner west council has taken funds and services from Marrickville and spread them across Ashfield and leichhardt Inner west council is less genuinely progressive then Marrickville council was
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Services in the Marrickville area are appalling while rates go up. Our rates were lower and services were better The current mayor is only interested in Balmain, Rozelle and Leichhardt
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Services levels have gone down since metger Parks are unkempt Dumping is prolific Merger total waste of money Merger was purely politically driven by liberal govt

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Services provided by Marrickville council was more efficient, quicker and reliable
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Should never have been amalgamted. Council was gutless and rolled over at the time.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Simply put, the amalgamation of the 3 Councils has removed local interaction and input to elected Council. The area under consideration by the IWC is too large, too diverse to be appropriately managed by the IWC. Shall we say, a faceless bureaucracy has resulted where once was local responsibility and interaction.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Since 2016 Council services have declined in quality There is a noticeable lack of transparency, especially in relation to tendering. The merger created more debt for very little gain.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Since amalgamation the services have gotten worse. We don't support mega councils. Grass hardly gets mowed on the streets anymore. Over-development in Marrickville has become a big concern. Rate payments continue to rise with no real improvement of services.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Since the amalgamation the standard of service has dropped. Streets littered with weeds and rubbish, parks standards also have dropped they have not been up kept to their usual appearance. Pot holes are left unattended for days before being repaired. You now have a Ashfield council depot left abandoned. Ashfield I believe deserves better, it is constantly growing and needs to be protected. Our residents deserve better.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Smaller area of responsibility More focus on local issues Against large areas of responsibility
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Smaller areas are more effective and economical
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Smaller Council more in tune with residents Amalgamated council non responsive Current poor service Felt like being overlooked
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Smaller councils allow for better management of all assets.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Smaller councils are better for having a say in what happens and what needs to be done.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Smaller councils can support locals
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Smaller councils makes for a better understanding of local needs.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Smaller is more manageable. We must get on top of developers greed and their desire to take green space for development therefore we need to go back to the smaller areas.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	So that each district could concentrate on its own individuality and not lumping them under one banner.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	St. Peter's is not being looked after my inner west council Rates are too high
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Streets are no longer maintained regarding weeds, trees, gutters & pavement Rubbish collection is poor & bins are often missed Waste of money on art projects like near the balmain post office, it offers no historical significance and it is already fading Since my vote the council cleanup system is unusable and is resulting in dumped waste on streets I feel I am getting very little service for the amount of my rates I pay
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The 3 suburbs are different in housing population cultural mix and size Amalgamation was a silly idea
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The amalgamated council does not reflect the community attitudes of Marrickville in particular
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The amalgamated council is too big and does not manage the individual areas well.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The amalgamated council model has been inefficient and unwieldy and it's genesis was rushed with no public consultation, it was potentially corrupt, suspicious and had very little to do with people, community and better management
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The amalgamated council no longer represents local interests. It's too large for every councillor to be across all issues in every ward. Services have declined since amalgamation
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The amalgamation created a mega council that no longer has the ability to properly service its constituents. A more localised approach is required to ensure each suburb is properly serviced and prioritised.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The amalgamation has not given the outcomes that the business case had proposed. IWC has four state MPs in its geographical boundary. How can a local council be local when state government has identified need
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The amalgamation has not improved services - it has made them worse. The current mega-Council is not able to respond adequately to residents concerns. In addition. the power of the Mayor & Council more generally on such a large area of Sydney is not appropriate. Local Councils should be just that: "Local"

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The amalgamation has reduced residents' ability to participate in decision making as representation has been drastically reduced and councilman has made some very bad decisions because of poor leadership.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The amalgamation lead to fewer councillors and less representation. If there were an increase to the number of councillors by population wouldn't support de-amalgamation. Not enough emphasis put on public transport and safe cycling expansion.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The amalgamation of councils was a corrupt waste of tax payer money. Balmain has not benefited.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The amalgamation was undemocratic and was done primarily to help property developers expedite their garbage development proposals. The priority of the council should in my opinion, be to assess developments on their merits for the utility and feasibility in the community, not on their profitability to property developers. I felt that the amalgamation went against the above priorities. Also the road outside my house has a ton of potholes and I'm annoyed at the council in general. Maybe a shake up would be good for things.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The analysis supporting continuing with amalgamation was lacking credibility and rigorous justification. The amalgamated Council has expended millions of tax payer funds without justification. Relabelling, web site which is difficult to utilise. There was no payback of the claimed savings that amalgamation would provide. Appointment of senior staff was very political and lacking in transparency The actions of the Mayor was very damaging to the ethical stance of Council.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The area and population of IWC is too large. Councillors cannot possibly fully represent their area because of the size and the number of residents. The 3 former Councils were able to address local issues more easily than a large IWC. Loss of services in former Leichhardt LGA, such as clean streets, weed removal, park maintenance etc Difficult access to Meeting Venues Council or Advisory Committees and Working Groups because of lack of transport.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The area is too large for a Councillor to remain in touch with the residents and visa versa. Time available in meetings for Councillors to look at issues across the amalgamated area is too limited. Council meeting become a farce of items being pushed through without proper debate/consideration.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The Balmain Peninsular needs more local input. The change from bi-annual collections to individual collections makes no sense - we now have waste on the streets at all times. Street and road maintenance is dire Need a local town hall - either back in Leichhardt or Balmain

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The council area is massive now and the issues that effect each ward are very different. The local council, which is tasked with focusing on local issues, is much bigger than the state electorate seat
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The council became too big and some of the smaller suburbs like Tempe were not given the attention they need.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The Council does not function properly and its level of service is poor. For many months it failed time and time again to see illegal and dangerous parking in a No Stopping zone designed to protect the public although the Council had been notified several times about this. That illegal and dangerous parking included from time to time the removal of one of the No Stopping signs so as to facilitate the illegal parking and then the reinstatement of the sign after the vehicles had left the No Stopping zone. Finally a
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The council doesn't meet local needs well
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The Council is now too big The Council is no longer responsive to residents, less accountable, more bureaucratic and difficult to deal with. Council is less democratic and less accessible. Residents are discouraged from involvement less welcome Money seems to have been wasted on a labyrinthine website that is extraordinarily difficult to navigate and fails to welcome residents. Council does not seem to be taking the overwhelming vote to deamalgamate seriously. Late night meetings, a business case developed by the very consultants who advised amalgamation and scare tactics about costs
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	the council was better organised and easier to deal with before council cared more about my area prior to amalgamation
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The council was well run before
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The councils seem to operate as separate entities anyway Seems to be lots of double up of costs No benefits have been promoted to residents on the amalgamated council More local representation and focus on local issues
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The councils should not have been amalgamated in the first place. It was not a Democratic process . Residents should have a say. I live in a heritage suburb which has different concerns to other areas of the inner west.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The current council area is too big. I feel no connection with far parts of the area and they are hard to reach by public transport. My rates are being spent on areas that don't benefit me. Local identity is being lost because of standardisation across the whole area.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The current council is too big, not representative Imposed against the will of the residents

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The current local area is too big. The mayor does not consult well with other councillors representing the area
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The demographics of the area covered by Innerwest council are too diverse. Since the council amalgamated Rozelle has bee left out of council spending.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The forced amalgamation was a shocking assault on citizen's rights and a blatant suppression of democracy at the time, and this needs to be acknowledged and reparation made.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The frequency of the Maintenance of nature strips and street cleaning had deteriorated, leaving local area looking unkempt.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The general management of Marrickville has deteriorated over last few years.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The Inner West Council is too large to reporesent the needs and wished of the Balmain residents.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	THE INNER WEST COUNCIL IS TOO LARGE. THE SUPPORT AND INTEREST IN LOCAL ISSUES HAS BEEN LOST EACH PARTICULAR PREVIOUS COUNCIL HAD THEIR OWN AGENDA AND PARTICULAR PROBLEMS IN THEIR AREAS. THESE ISSUES HAVE NOW BEEN LOST DUE TO AMALGAMATION
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The Inner West Council is very pro development and inefficient, and not sensitive to local issues.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The Inner West LGA is too large to be truly representative of the diverse community Reduced representation at a more local level There was no evidence available to warrant the amalgamation based on financial sustainability The state government imposed an amalgamation without community consultation or evidence of poor governance or financial instability The previous councils provided evidence through consultation that the communities were against amalgamation and was not taken into account in the forced decision
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The Inner West local government area is too large. Council services have deteriorated. The merger has negatively impacted communities.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The IWC is cumbersome and wasteful. It is a faceless organisation that has little connection with, or sympathy for, is ratepayers
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The level of services have diminished The representation locally has also diminished with local councillors being spread too thin Feel like we do not have enough local representation
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The majority of services including contact, waste management, street, lane cleaning & weed control were much better under Marrickville Council

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The NSW state government did not adequately make the case for council amalgamation when it was forced upon local councils. Services have declined.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The old Marrickville council was more efficient than the new Innerwesy council
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The People have spoken at the last local government election!!! Inner west council is now too big and the suburbs like Croydon Park are not given much consideration The Lew Herman park was approved years and years ago. An absolute disgrace considering what this man gave to Ashfield council and community. Obviously this was not important to Inner West Council.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The public got much better representation and service under the previous Leichhardt Council
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The residents of the councils are to diverse to be governed by a single LGA Council members should not have too much power over residents in other suburbs Large councils encourage rorts
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The service levels have dropped significantly for no rate drop (in fact it was going up)
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The structure of the IWC means less local representation - its undemocratic The merger has resulted in some poor services (i.e. planning, street maintenance) Rates are being equialized across IWC but some service levels are not (i.e. waste collection) There are too many councillors to have effective debate in council meetings
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The total unprofessionalism of our representatives and their support of minor political groups.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The upkeep of Ashfield has gone down hill. Ashfield park and Explorers parks are looking tired from neglect. Uneven footpaths, potholes and overflowing drains near the parks. The carnival of festivals was a great community celebration The free plant give-aways encouraged residents to beautify their gardens.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	The website is far too complex to easily access required information. I never felt that with the Leichhardt Council Website - others have commented about experiencing the same issue. Each area has its own unique features and need to be treated so. Financial, issues are not the only measuring stick - social issues also count. I feel 'disenfranchised' - lost in the big picture
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	There has been no savings in rates and a reduction in some services Local democracy is important to me

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	There was never any community consultation when the 3 councils were amalgamated. I oppose the then amalgamation That you hVe the insight to ask now, that we should be de-amalgamated, suggests I'm not the only Marrickville resident to have opposed it originally At great expense you hVe now got consultants to reveal the obvious, that it will be really expensive for us to rectify the previous mistake. It's infuriating that you now have to go through this process.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Thevamalgamation has not helped any residents or business Worked better before, Leichardt council understood thevarea
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Things ran better pre amalgamation
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Thought it would benefit Leichhardt more.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	thought service would be better at same cost
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Thought we will get better service
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	To actually have an agile and responsive action by council that represents the local community's concerns and voice.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	To ensure development decisions were done in the areas best interest Big councils are more efficient, but don't actually represent the community Local council should be focused on local problems, not macro ones. The current council area is too big. To encourage more heritage protection and vibrancy of community De-malgamation reduces and ring fences corruption
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	To get back an effective efficient responsive local council with better representation from councillors as better/easier interaction/communication. More maintenance occurred when 3 diff councils.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	To get back an effective responsive local council with better representation from councillors as better/easier interaction/communication. More maintenance occurred when 3 diff councils
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	To have better representation locally
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	To improve local services and make more adapted decisions to each area. Those 3 councils are very different areas!

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	To keep individual character of areas To keep contact easy To make council more approachable Because contract work might be easier to monitor and evaluate Because the suburbs all have different needs and priorities
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	to maintain marrickville area as was working for local residents
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	To preserve the capacity for a demerger
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	To put local back into council To improve community representation on council To support more active resident involvement To obtain better standard and promptness of service To roll back the corporatisation of council and privatisation of its assets
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	To restore the status quo.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	To return council to 'local' not to give Darcy Byrne a platform for aggrandisement.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Transparency:IWC is not accountable to residents Democracy: 36 Councillors were cut to only 15, who cannot be across various communities'; all three councils opposed the forced amalgamation Diversity: the inner west is home to diverse communities and transient ones; they all have special needs Diversity: the inner west is home to diverse communities and transient ones; they all have special needs Financial: IWC has lost money since the merger and chronically underperformed; bigger has not meant better
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Undemocratic decision not made by locals
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Under the current system I just keep seeing rates increasing with no evidence of an improvement to services. In fact, services have decreased.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	unique and special local area and character needs specialised local representation and management amalgamation was forced upon us and this is undemocratic large population and diverse areas deserve more localised services and policies detail and diversity is lost in demographic data when one council/ lga covers all three areas/populations grass roots are supposed to be just that - not something mandated and controlled by bigger government levels
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Unresponsive council eg Failure to follow up on issues eg Sink holes, stormwater damage Inability to access services eg Failure to address issues re stormwater and overland flooding Failure to consult residents and transparency. eg Parking spaces removed. Process opaque Delayed response to WCX Massive Disruption.First approached Mayor Byrneo of

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
	LeichhardtCouncil. Surveyed 6/22 Privatisation of Public Transport? Impact and review.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Unsatisfied with local decisions of council
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	very many reasons - see my correspondence to council over many years
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Wamt the old Leichhardt Council back. It was not perfect but it did a good job and had a lower ratio of councellors to residents
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Want more focus on the Leichhardt Council Area. Bigger is not always better. More accountability on spending in the Leichhardt Council Area. Make Mayor and Councillors accountable for the Leichhardt Council Area
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	was better before
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Was not aware of the efficiencies gained No improvements to ashfield town centre Did not have a choice in amalgamation
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Wasn't aware of the costs involved Thought they would bring in more focus on local issues
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	Watching balmain deteroriate No investment in facilities locally The poor maintenance of roads & parks
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	We had no say in being amalgamated. At last we could have a say. Democracy finally triumphs. Leave us alone.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	We have less Councillors under IWC;it's more party politics driven than ever; no evidence of greater efficiency & responsive services in my experience with IWC;leadership & management turnover at Council; resident input/involvement is tokenistic etc etc
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	We lost a lot of the personality of our local area. Traditions and community acknowledgement were lost. The number of people working in the trade section decreased. It seems inefficient and too heavy. No one wants to take responsibity for anything. You leave messages and no one calls you back. No one a commitment to the local area and character. Labor Counsellor Matt Howard assisted in getting the naidoc flags up along MARRICKVILLE rd this year but they haven't flown for 6 years since the amalgamation.
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	What a shonky sell off corporate Inner West Council we ended up with post the Council amalagamation. Very disappointing. In a decade of disruption we need good management to navigate the huge challenges ahead.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
Yes - Support de-amalgamation	With individual councils we had a more personalised service The parks and gardens under Leichhardt council were better maintained Committies of council were more accessible under Leichhardt Council I felt more connected to what was local under Leichhardt Council
Yes – support de-amalgamation	All services more efficient and better managed before amalgamation.
Yes – support de-amalgamation	Ashfield were better on our own
Yes – support de-amalgamation	Because I saw no benefits for Marrickville, some services have not been as good and too few counsellors to represent such a large area.
Yes – support de-amalgamation	Because I thought that Council (Leichhardt) functioned better on its own, produced better local results, involved community, approachable and small. Could go on but that's enough.
Yes – support de-amalgamation	Because the current council structure is a stitch up by Darcy Byrne + enablers and is not working for the majority of people who want access to local, accessible representation. For a number of reasons. Essentially, many residents were in the council chambers in 2015 when the then Leichhardt Mayor D.Byme volunteered the Leichhardt Council to be merged with Marrickville and Ash field Councils claiming i t was preferable to volunteer a merge than to have one forced on the Council. But i f he had sincerely wanted Leichhardt Council to remain unmerged, he could have challenged any forced merger in the courts - as other councils did, including those in Liberal-held areas. Byrne made this move against the wishes of a large majority of local residents. He did this because he saw i t would further his own ends: to be the ruler of an enlarged electorate. He also did this to help his developer and tollway building backers get their way. Despite his feeble protestations to the contrary, he - and Labor (State and Federal) - wanted WestConnex to go ahead. And they are very welcoming o f large commercial development despite the wishes of ordinary people who prefer low to medium scale housing and shops. So far he has succeeded. However, i t has become clearer by the day that he - and Labor generally - are unsuited to running this merged empire. Byrne in particular has trashed so many aspects o f process in council meetings (and community committees) making i t very difficult for ordinary people to have their say in a fair way. He is rude, dismissive and childish. He does not care for the wishes o f most people, unless o f course he knows they are in the Labor fold. In short, he behaves very like Scott Morrison - bumptious, inept and nasty. And even worse, he models for newer Labor councillors that this is the correct way to behave. So much for local democracy in the new amalgamated order. Council meetings are too long, full o f way too many items due to the overlarge IWC boundaries and associated complexities. Now we have 15 councillors to cover the whole area when in Leichhardt Council (and the other two) we had 12. How did that happen? Councillors are not paid employees - they offer their participation (with a small stipend) part time. How can

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
	they possibly read all the material and address the issues o f a such a huge area much less make informed decisions in a reasonable time? For residents and workers/business owners, attending meetings in person does not suit all people across this huge area. Ash field Council rooms were chosen as supposedly the most suitable but how suitable are they for people in Birchgrove/Balmain/Annandale and Leichhardt (for example). Attending on-line is helpful for some people but not everyone has the knowledge or computer equipment to participate this way.
Yes – support de-amalgamation	For several erasons, the main ones being 1. I bitterly resented, and I still resent, having had amalgamation forced upon me. 2. In my opinion the level of council services has fallen off badly since amalgamation. 3. Inner West Council has run deficit budgets since it was formed, while it is my understanding that the three former councils were financially solvent. 4. I could easily attend Marrickville Council meetings and sometimes I did so, as did other local residents. It has not proved convenient for me to attend Inner West council meetings and in any event it is hardly worth doing so because Mayor Byrne runs them as if the Inner West was his personal fiefdom.
Yes – support de-amalgamation	I disagree that geographical affinity is important. I dislike aggregated depth of bureaucracy. I disagree that a higher rate paying community must be expected to subsidise a lower rate paying one.
Yes – support de-amalgamation	I voted yes for demerger at the Council elections and I think it should be undertaken asap. 63% of those who voted at the election agreed with a demerger and I believe nothing has changed in my mind since then. Please just do it!
Yes – support de-amalgamation	I want a smaller more effective council where councillors know the suburbs and staff also know the area. Councillors in the previous smaller councils were more available to discuss issues with. They were more responsive so our parks, roads, gardens, footpaths and buildings were better looked after. Residents don't have much input now. Have Your Say is not best way. Meeting for local residents to discuss their needs is best. Now only 9/10 Council meetings a year and not good enough. Newsletters are useless at giving information on what is important to residents its just full of photos of what has been! Newsletters must be at least monthly and give information like where to get help and what is coming in the future, not past.
Yes – support de-amalgamation	I want better service like before. I want my councillor to know my area and fix problems like they did before we were Inner West.
Yes – support de-amalgamation	I'm a great believer in the meaning of local! I would like to see the number of local councillors return to what it was before amalgamation. I would like the frequency of council meetings to increase so my local issues get proper attention. I would like to ensure that councils services are not outsourced or reduced. I believe real resident involvement is more likely under de-amalgamation.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
	Q3 -Satisfied but in the last 12 months my experience has been very limited. The Home Library Services has saved my life. I'm very, very satisfied with this service!!
Yes – Support de-amalgamation	IWC is too big. Councillors have too many residents to be effective. Very poor maintenance of roads parks footpaths buildings.
Yes – support de-amalgamation	Leichhardt Council was financial sound before amalgamation. Inner West Council is now $18 million in debt demonstrating bad management. Our previous Leichhardt Council was an open one for all the community. Now we have a Labour council which has decided to half the number of council meetings with community… not democratic, showing integrity and transparency for our community. Our Mayor can't even pay his rates when we rate payers have to tolerate this. Where is the leadership by example. This survey is wasting more money when eth people have spoken for change already. The waste services and grass cutting are less frequent now and of poor quality than with Leichhardt Council. Contract workers do not take the same care as Council employees Nearly killed kids in bed 2 years ago on a Brennan Street house at 12:30am at night!! Ran into the back of their home off the road.
Yes – support de-amalgamation	1. Leichhardt Council was financially viable before amalgamation. Therefore amalgamation has been unsuccessful, despite promises of savings. 2. Amalgamation has reduced access to Council for residents 3. Amalgamation has meant less democratic representation. 4. Councillors have less connection with their local communities.
Yes – support de-amalgamation	No benefit to residents. Amalgamation has resulted in losses. E.g. twice yearly household collections that were also a recycling opportunity for residents. Loss of representation e.g. precinct groups. Contacting council depts now much harder, never get through to relevant person and have to email general council email address. The website is inadequate. Decline in services generally yet rates continue to rise. Loss of sense of community we had with Leichhardt council.
Yes – support de-amalgamation	Not satisfied with the IWC. Want better representation. Want better local services.
Yes – support de-amalgamation	Since amalgamation service standards declined and difficult to speak to relevant staff member when you need to. Loss of community representation and lines of communication e.g. precinct groups were arbitrarily abolished on questionable grounds. Numbers of cllrs per population declined. Council meetings inaccessible for many since being moved to Ashfield Council chambers, very poor bus service to and from Leichhardt, esp late at night. Zoom meetings participation not as effective but during COVID understood. We had greater autonomy under the former Leichhardt Council. The IWC is now simply too big with a reduced sense of community.

Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?	Q5b. Why did you vote that way?
	Anger on the way in which the Councils were amalgamated against the wishes of the community, it was arbitrary and undemocratic. Our misgivings and doubts about the "wisdom" of merging have been borne out as outlined above. The after effect has been corrosive and has created a lack of trust.
Yes – support de-amalgamation	Smaller Councils are better for having a say in what happens and what needs to be done.
Yes – support de-amalgamation	The previous 3 separate Councils better represented their constituents. The residents of Leichhardt are currently least represented in NSW in terms of Councillor numbers in relation to the residents. Community is essential and has largely gone missing since amalgamation
Yes – support de-amalgamation	To get back an effective efficient responsive local council with better representation from councillors as better/easier interaction/communication. More maintenance occurred when 3 different councils.
Yes – support de-amalgamation	Wanted better representation. Wanted better services.
Yes – Support de-amalgamation	We voted for it so do it!!! The majority voted yes!!! Council should be non-political. Party politics should be banned within Council. Council has become a vehicle for personal power and career ambitions. There is no place in Council for party politics. Councils need to be small and local. Big Councils and centralisation is not good for local communities. Big Councils cost a lot of money, our rate payers money. Councils need to get back to their core services: road + path maintenance + cleanliness. Waste collection. Parks + gardens. They have been sorely neglected, just look around, look at the state of our roads. We the people should be able to choose the mayor we want. The mayor's term should be limited to 1 term of 2 years.

Table 2

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	'Inner West' is more than a home it is a part of residents' identity. Other suburbs benefit from Marrickville's and Annandales bush care team and nursery The aquatic centres are wonderful, and the new membership of being able to access them all is fantastic Lower possibility of corruption Inner West Council can improve and become the best in Sydney
Remain as Inner West Council	"Return to pre amalgamation level of service". It was worse then!
Remain as Inner West Council	1

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	1. the four "benefits" listed are so miniscule, apart from a bit of politics, why do I need more councillors? "right to self determination" I want but I have that in my state, federal, and even inner west council. I don't need it for this, that's so meaningless in this context and makes a mockery of people overseas and in Aboriginal Australia that actually don't have a "right to self-determination"
Remain as Inner West Council	3 councils with 3 sets of councillors and duplication of services is a waste of money
Remain as Inner West Council	A bigger con Il can afford major improvements to local facilities
Remain as Inner West Council	A business case is a waste of time, money and resources De-amalgamation is a political plaything by ideological idiots
Remain as Inner West Council	A small and loud group seem to dominate inner west priorities. They're selfish, not representative, and they manipulate general opinion because they're organised (and socially influential). it is waste of time money and energy. It is small minded. We need more dense cities. Which means more efficient, more capable, and stronger councils. People who want to de-amalgamation seem to romanticise the past. They want to live 5kms from Sydney's CBD with a large backyard, in a single story house. They think this is good for (their) society but it punishes young people (because housing is less available and more expensive), creativity (because old people become boring), culture (because they're pushing what allows out real diversity- ie cheap housing). I think a bigger council can push back on these parochial influences that constitute a very self-ser Focus on fixing my road and, making the pub stop ignoring planning laws and inject productive use into propetlrties that are sitting idle. Healthy communities do more than headlines. De amalgamation is a distraction.
Remain as Inner West Council	A waste of funds
Remain as Inner West Council	A waste of time and resources.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Absolute waste of money Council should be focusing its attention on important local issues, wasting resources on de-amalgamation is ridiculous IWC has good services and local representation now, why should we pay more for a worse outcome due to de-merger
Remain as Inner West Council	Absolutely insane to de-amalgamate at rhus stage with rusing costs and having seen success. Merely a political exercise. Get on with doing the job.
Remain as Inner West Council	Absolutely no need to deamalgamate -- the business case for it is exceedingly weak.
Remain as Inner West Council	Additional cost to de-amalgamate Additional time Funds to de-amalgamate could be better spent on other council services
Remain as Inner West Council	Additional costs do not have any beneficial outcome Adjacent areas of the inner west fundamentally should not have different service levels The push for de-amalgamation was primarily pushed by wealthy landholders who do not represent the future of the IWC There are no quantifiable reasons as to how the old councils were better than the new one The new council has fantastic online services and phone support
Remain as Inner West Council	After reading the options The money spent on de merging is better being put into the community The time and resources put into a de merger are better spent on more important things like sustainability and better services in our council
Remain as Inner West Council	Again, I can't seem to find any compelling reason to de-amalgamate now that it is done. I don't ever see state gov paying for the de-amalgamation, I do not want to pay for it. Increased rates will put further strain on households I access and use services across all of inner west, I don't see why it would be better to be in different councils. Regardless of the majority 'yes' vote to de-amalgamation, I can't see that everyone voted with all the facts and information at hand to make a good decision. It is almost like Brexit.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Again, I don't see any benefit to spending a lot of time and money on undoing changes that have already been done. This seems like a vanity project for people who are annoyed that they have less power than they did when the councils were more localised.
Remain as Inner West Council	Ain't broke don't fix
Remain as Inner West Council	All my previous points. But particularly that it will cost more to maintain current levels of service
Remain as Inner West Council	All of the reasons I mentioned previously
Remain as Inner West Council	All the previous answers I gave - cost, efficiency, no discernible difference between pre-amalgamation and now.
Remain as Inner West Council	All three options are worse than what we have today.
Remain as Inner West Council	Already provided. I don't see benefits of de amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	Although it is deeply infuriating that the three Councils were amalgamated, I do not believe that de-amalgamating represents value for money. There is also the human cost to Council staff, who have probably been through hell undergoing all thge restructuring to amalgamate who face going through it all again to de-amalgamate
Remain as Inner West Council	Am satisfied with level of service provided by Inner West Council The cost of de-amalgamating Disruption during transition period
Remain as Inner West Council	Amalgamated model has resulted in high levels of service, cost effectively and without compromising character of individual areas
Remain as Inner West Council	Amalgamating 3 councils assets into 1 council is common sense.
Remain as Inner West Council	Amalgamation has streamlined services. Excellent website, services and communications. More efficient and effective.
Remain as Inner West Council	Amalgamation has streamlined services. Excellent website, services and communications. More efficient and effective.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Amalgamation is a waste of time and money
Remain as Inner West Council	Angry that rates will go up further Send pointless to change now Waste of so many resources Angry that it was a ham fisted exercise If we stay as IWC if like to see some tangible results and improvements!
Remain as Inner West Council	Answered in the previous question.We have already absorbed the costs involved. It is a waste of money to ask the NSW tax payers to fund this deamalgamation. The IWC is more efficient. There are cost savingd
Remain as Inner West Council	As a rate payer I do not wish to incur the additional costs incurred by de-amalgamation. I do not support reinstating the Leichardt Council in its previous form. I prefer continuation of the efficiencies and services that can be provided by being part of a larger council area.
Remain as Inner West Council	As a Rate Payer there is no benefit whatsoever - the argued break even point is a decade away. An option in any business case is no change. I'm being asked which of three de-amalgamation options I prefer; a more balanced view would be to list four. There is a significant risk that the survey will return a response that is not the will of the constituents based on a poor construct. The presumptive position that residents overwhelmingly voted for de-amalgamation in the absence of clear options at the time is misplaced.
Remain as Inner West Council	As a resident of the IWC, I don't see any issues with how the council is currently run. If anything, Ashfield has benefited from the amalgamation. Again, the cost incurred, seems completely unnecessary.
Remain as Inner West Council	As above
Remain as Inner West Council	As above. There are so many more important things to do that waste resources and effort on standing on principle and deamalgamating.
Remain as Inner West Council	As already mentioned Inner West council is doing a good job. It is a waste of time and money to break it up

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	As before waste of your time and money
Remain as Inner West Council	As before-I can notice no considerable change either pre-or post amalgamation.
Remain as Inner West Council	As I mentioned before. De-amalgamating is a huge waste of resources. Fix the things that are broken rather than wasting money. We should never have amalgamated in the first place. But now that it's done, why change it? Make it better. Again all the branding is in place. It looks good and has so much scope. Rebranding is a costly exercise.
Remain as Inner West Council	As i said above. Inner west council has hit its stride. I feel well represented by the councillors of Inner West Council and feel they are in touch with local matters and that we have a strong local voice. Indeed the area is large - but in general i feel Inner West council has brought together a strength of common interests, good governance and strong capabilities to good effect.
Remain as Inner West Council	As I said before, stop messing everyone around. Our rates went up a ridiculous amount with the merger and now you want us to pay more to put it back. No! And think about the council workers too. Not sure what you mean by pre-amalgamation services because I feel services not improved much. Focus your attention to things that will help people directly.
Remain as Inner West Council	As I stated before, I would prefer that we remained united under the one Council: it is more cost effective and I believe it has brought benefits to our community.
Remain as Inner West Council	As I've already written, all this will achieve is increased costs to residents, with no improvement to service
Remain as Inner West Council	As mentioned before,more cost effective and seems to operate efficiently
Remain as Inner West Council	As mentioned earlier - we should not use energy (human or financial) to reverse the decision We don't need to create more bureaucracy with additional councils or councillors

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	As per my previous answer, there are so many benefits to the Inner West Council, compared to three smaller councils. We should definitely stay as the Inner West Council.
Remain as Inner West Council	As per my previous comments, this will lead to significant, unnecessary one off costs, while also leading to either lower service standards and/or higher costs.
Remain as Inner West Council	as per previous answer
Remain as Inner West Council	As per previous answer re benefits of amalgamation.
Remain as Inner West Council	As per previous responses Deamalgamation is senseless I view deamalgamation as solely driven by politics. There need only be one set of mayoral chains Council should be doing what is was elected to do
Remain as Inner West Council	As per prior answer. Why pay more and get less services IWC working ok as is
Remain as Inner West Council	As per reasons given in previous response
Remain as Inner West Council	As per reasons previously stated
Remain as Inner West Council	As per views provided previously. Further, options A, B and C in my view are varying degrees of worse options when the alternative is to remain amalgamated with continued services and no financial shortfall.
Remain as Inner West Council	As previously answeres
Remain as Inner West Council	As previously stated
Remain as Inner West Council	As previously stated
Remain as Inner West Council	As previously stated, the exorbitant costs do not justify the insignificantly few benefits. Inner West Council is already doing a great job and has a bright future. Only as one united Council can we address challenges such as Climate Change, traffic congestion, rising cost of living and much more.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	As previusly stated Council can improve service within the present structure. A larger council does allow better infrastructuree such as the Ashield Aquatic Centree the scope of which would have been beyond the former legacy council. The disruption to de-amalgamate is too great i did not support the forced amalgamtion and the legacy councils were in general performing well but he new larger council has the potential to improve on those service levcels. I also think de-amalgamation places an unfair burden of council staff who have worked hard to make the Inner West Council better.
Remain as Inner West Council	As raised in my previous concerns, it would take considerable resourcing and time for the Council and State government to consider a business case which may not have any political buy in at the State level and insufficient justification. If Council were to proceed with submitting a business case - there should be an independent review, noting that Morrison Low are the same firm who Council engaged for the business case for the former Leichhardt, Ashfield and Marrickville councils to stand alone and not be forcibly merged in 2016. A different firm should have prepared the draft 2022 business case.
Remain as Inner West Council	As stated
Remain as Inner West Council	As stated earlier.
Remain as Inner West Council	As stated in my earlier response - the inner west is a cohesive community and the cohesive service provision of the last few years just makes sense I don't believe de-amalgamation and an increase of part time councillors will improve democracy. I believe properly paid councillors working full time on council will improve democracy by being able to give the job the time and commitment it deserves, while opening up the opportunity to folks who may not have been able to consider it before because they have full time work and family commitments.
Remain as Inner West Council	As stated in Q5b

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	As stated previously I don’t support deamalgatiom It is a waste of time and money I have had better service and facilities since became IWC
Remain as Inner West Council	Ashfield council was hopeless
Remain as Inner West Council	At this point, de-amalgamation is a huge waste of taxpayer time and money. This survey is also a waste of time, but de-amalgamation at this point is such a terrible idea that I feel it necessary to respond in detail. Reverting back would be an enormous waste of time and funds. It will only add more expense to constituents, while reducing services and further disrupting the already less-than-stellar existing services. Why is this even still up for debate? To placate voters who are 5 years too late? A real leader
Remain as Inner West Council	At this stage de-amalgamation (having had to amalgamate) would be a case of throwing good money after bad. Esp. if there's no way to retain current service levels (which to me are more important than levels of representation) without increasing the cost of residents.
Remain as Inner West Council	Avoid a huge waste of money for little, if any, benefit
Remain as Inner West Council	Avoid increased costs to residents
Remain as Inner West Council	Avoid redundant costs
Remain as Inner West Council	Backwards step Well functioning council Appropriate level of service and fees
Remain as Inner West Council	Based on the information provided during this survey and in the flyer that prompted it, there is no business case.
Remain as Inner West Council	Be sure we’ve had better services under amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	Because as I said before, there has been no real amalgamation attempt. I have not seen or heard of any 'results' made in any areas of operations. All is ever talked about is similar to how this survey is worded... "it will cost more to amalgamate" without any why. What sections cost more and why? Same number of DAs coming in,

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	same streets and parks to clean, same rates to collect etc So even if council staff and offices had remained the same, there should be zero increase apart from normal growth.
Remain as Inner West Council	Because as it said before, there has been no real amalgamation attempt. I have not seen or heard of any 'results' made in any areas of operation. All is ever talked about is similar to how this survey is worded "It will cost more to amalgamate" without any why. What sections cost more and why? Same number of Das coming in, same streets and parks to clean, same rates to collect etc… so even if Council staff and offices had remained the same, there should be zero increase, apart from normal growth.
Remain as Inner West Council	Because de amalgamation will make the govt too small With 3 levels of govt, local govt should not be too small
Remain as Inner West Council	Because de-amalgamation doesn't make sense if we want to continue improving quality services and improve our area
Remain as Inner West Council	Because demerger will be costly and won't have any benefits.
Remain as Inner West Council	Because even submitting the business case has been a waste of time because the NSW government will never approve it, and on top of that de-amalgamation is simply a stupid and ridiculous idea
Remain as Inner West Council	Because I am happy with the current services provided by IWC. I did not vote to demerger. The cheapest option would be option C which then begs the question why have a council at all?
Remain as Inner West Council	Because I am very satisfied with the Inner West Council.
Remain as Inner West Council	Because I choose to
Remain as Inner West Council	Because I don't believe that de amalgamating will provide any benefit. More community engagement as an argument for de amalgamating is just unproven waffle. In addition the costs and

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	wastage are astronomical. Better to try and be a more effective AMALAGAMATED LGA.
Remain as Inner West Council	Because I don't support the de-amalgamation process at all. Keep businesses and external interests out of it, should be focused on the community's benefit.
Remain as Inner West Council	Because I dont support Deamalgamation I don't want service levels to deteriorate I don't want rates to rise I see value in service delivery through a bigger council I'd be happy if the submission was rejected by the minister for local government
Remain as Inner West Council	Because I feel that the gains made through the amalgamation and the disruption that this caused would mean to go through with deamalgamation would mean repeat costs blow outs and further loss of confidence in the council and it's ability to get back to the business it should be focussing on and that is serving its residents
Remain as Inner West Council	Because I think the reasons to remain are greater than the reasons to de-amalgamate
Remain as Inner West Council	Because I value the better service levels and cost efficiency that... ...the single inner west council is delivering De-amalgamation will either cost more and/or deliver less. I don't want that
Remain as Inner West Council	Because I'm very happy with Inner West Council
Remain as Inner West Council	Because im happy with the council now
Remain as Inner West Council	Because it is a waste of money and a waste of council time. A larger council is more efficient.
Remain as Inner West Council	Because it is a waste of money It will result in increased costs and reduced services De-amalgamation is a waste of council resources
Remain as Inner West Council	Because it is more efficient
Remain as Inner West Council	Because it is the most efficient model It is rediculous that after spending all this time and money amagamating to just un do it all. I like "inner West" better, its moved with the times. More ontemporary and reflects the location well. Inner west is a better name for the Newtown area

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	as "Marrikville Council" had nothing to do with Newtown and dosent suit the suburb. I dont want my rates to go up to fund another bunch of Councillors.
Remain as Inner West Council	Because it is wasteful to duplicate so many services and roles. I don't want my rates increased to pay for Ashfield council to re-form Planning and services should be done across the whole area. 3 councils = excessive local gov waste
Remain as Inner West Council	Because it isn't worth the costs, both up front and ongoing.
Remain as Inner West Council	Because it makes more sense to maintain a larger council - more access to services, more access to a larger area of Sydney, more cohesive and more oversight, meaning less scope for corruption
Remain as Inner West Council	because it makes sense . Its a waste of money to demerge. achieves nothing
Remain as Inner West Council	Because it's a waste of time and money and panders to a small group of vocal residents
Remain as Inner West Council	Because it's a waste of time and money as per my previous comment. There is no real benefit to deamalgamating at this point.
Remain as Inner West Council	Because it's just a waste of money. The cost of de amalgamation can be spent on improving the inner west. Bettering our Roads,recreational facilities and simple things like fixing our foot paths. To me it's just a waste of money
Remain as Inner West Council	Because its a waste of money to go back. And the questions you asked when people voted at the election were very badly written and misleading Shame on you
Remain as Inner West Council	Because it's fine the way it is We should be moving forward not backwards
Remain as Inner West Council	Because it's working well, and we're here now. Don't go backwards. I like being a part of the Inner West council.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Because larger councils are more efficient and the Greens can not run anything. I used to be avid Greens supporter but lately the Greens have become just another power hungry political party and if they are for something I think twice about why. There would be an ulterior motive for their wanting de-amalgamation that would benefit the Greens. In short I don't trust anything the Greens have to say.
Remain as Inner West Council	Because looking at the costs and service level impacts it does not make sense to de-amalgamate now
Remain as Inner West Council	Because of the cost associated I can't afford a rate hike The services are just as good I don't want services to drop Because de amalgamation is a really stupid idea
Remain as Inner West Council	Because of the money already spent
Remain as Inner West Council	Because services are fine and we do not need more cost Tenants should not decide how the council operates
Remain as Inner West Council	Because the amalgamation is working It will be expensive to deamalgamate The NSW government won't fund the full cost of deamalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	Because the costs and associated risks as outlined by Ernst and Young and Morrison Low are deterrents
Remain as Inner West Council	Because there is nothing wrong with the council functions at present
Remain as Inner West Council	Because this is a sham process to satisfy narrow minded councillors who can't imagine doing anything different to how they have "governed" previously.
Remain as Inner West Council	Because we are in this now, we've learnt to adapt. Do your jobs and run the 3 areas efficiently
Remain as Inner West Council	Because you havent cleaned up the mess You have done any considation of infrastructure, facilities, IT , finance etc etc

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Because, see the only three options we can choose from that have some level of information. To back it up is ALL about de-amalgamation. This is biased!
Remain as Inner West Council	Believe we have seen benefits in merger I have always (& will always be) resident of the inner west - as has my wider family - so we are in same council area with same services
Remain as Inner West Council	Benefits clearly do not outweigh costs Operational scale more valuable than having more councillors/"better representation"
Remain as Inner West Council	Benefits don't outweigh costs
Remain as Inner West Council	Benefits of de-amalgamation do not outweigh the significant costs to maintain standards
Remain as Inner West Council	Benefits of inner west are tangible Future is bright as is Benefits of demerger are fictitious Don't need more councillors at all Cost is unjustifiable
Remain as Inner West Council	Best option
Remain as Inner West Council	Best option.
Remain as Inner West Council	Better coordination and cost efficiencies
Remain as Inner West Council	Better for everyone Maintains existing services Financially sound and sensible
Remain as Inner West Council	Better productivity and reduces costs
Remain as Inner West Council	Better resources and services since almagamation.
Remain as Inner West Council	Better service and more efficient with current option.
Remain as Inner West Council	Better service for $ contribution More impactful across inner west Less spend on admin and bureaucracy No reason to change
Remain as Inner West Council	Better services
Remain as Inner West Council	Better services and decisions made by council. More options for residences eg increase the number of public pools
Remain as Inner West Council	Better services at lower cost
Remain as Inner West Council	Better services Lower costs

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Better services More efficient
Remain as Inner West Council	Better things to get on with
Remain as Inner West Council	Better to focus on what can be improved by the existing council Being amalgamated has not changed the cultural fabric of Marrickville or the Inner West It will be disruptive and costly to separate services such as the libraries
Remain as Inner West Council	Better to remian a stronger bigger council who can control large scale issues and limit red tape and politics
Remain as Inner West Council	Business case and costings make no sense.
Remain as Inner West Council	Business case is not supporting at all the de-amalgation Less corruption at council level Cheaper services Good services Enough representation as is
Remain as Inner West Council	Business case shows rates will increase to maintain same level of service Demerger costs too high and not a good use of money Staff say they would prefer to remain as merged Council, they would have best understanding of Council operations I've changed my mind after reading business case and no longer think de-merger is a good idea
Remain as Inner West Council	Business case shows there is no benefit in terms of efficiency and service levels for rate payers
Remain as Inner West Council	Can see no benefit in de-amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	Can you even year yourself? Option B says maintaining existing service levels after de-amalgamation will cost each household $221-$471. I WANT EXISTING SERVICE LEVELS WITHOUT THE COST INCREASE, PLEASE. This push for de-amalgamation is a complete waste of time. Even your own collateral says it'll make outcomes for me, as a rate payer, worse. I also don't want "more representatives per resident." I want more residents per representative. I want you people to service the collective will of your wards, I don't want you slicing them and dicing them until they're small enough to be railroaded.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Can't go back
Remain as Inner West Council	Case for demerger does not stack up Short term and long-term costs of demerger are high and provide minimal benefit to residents Merged Council will be more efficient in long-term
Remain as Inner West Council	Change for change sake is not good
Remain as Inner West Council	Change is always expensive/ creates Excessive waste and is disruptive to Many folk in the community
Remain as Inner West Council	Cheaper Don't need so many councillors Streamlined
Remain as Inner West Council	cheaper to run and provide better services as inner west council.
Remain as Inner West Council	Check my previous answers
Remain as Inner West Council	Clearly it was merged for good reason. We don't want councils to run out of cash, we don't want to pay higher rates, we want a great service level still
Remain as Inner West Council	Clearly the costs outweigh the benefits
Remain as Inner West Council	Concern that maintaining current levels of service would require rate increases Concern that to maintain reasonable rate levels a considerable loss of service levels The deamalgamation process would result in another huge unheaval for Council staff
Remain as Inner West Council	Consider there is greater efficiencies in a larger organisation the need for more local necessities can be provided by the neighbourhood centers
Remain as Inner West Council	Continue to work with the community to provide good services. Instead of costly exercise to deamalgamate
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost - waste of money. Whats the point. I doubt there will be any improvement waste of time
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost . Work on existing arrangements to make things better and more efficient
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost and efficiency
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost and services
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost and services
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost and waste of money already spent
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost efficiencies Service levels
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost efficiencies.
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost efficiency - find a way to address the local representation issue without de-amalgamation. Eg. Not one size fits all for all suburbs. Eg. Where there are a lot of parking metres, rates don't need to be as high etc
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost Efficiency Retain knowledge past 6 years
Remain as Inner West Council	cost increases avoided Marrickville Council's services were not of a high standard previously
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost is excessive and not a good use of rate payer funds Service delivery is good now, no need to change anything
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost isn't worth the benefit. Deamalgamation is a way for politicians to fund more salaries at the expense of ratepayers without improving service
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost of de-amalgamation No benefit
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost of de-amalgamation to rate payers
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost of de-amalgamation too high Hopefully, IWC will lift its game regarding answering the phone Hopefully, IWC will lift its game with 'free' kerbside rubbish pick-ups Hopefully, Balmain ward Councillors will respond to requests/complaints from their residents with more than just lip service Hopefully, IWC will spend more of its rates pool in Rozelle (not Balmain, not Lilyfield)
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost of it Cant see any benefit

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost of living crisis is bad enough as it is. As a young person the chief advantage of de amalgamation seems to be more council seats for politicians to run for & enjoy. I can't think of a single thing the older councils did better than the current IWC.
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost of living is increasing. Interest rates are up. It is impossible to find staff. And this council is proposing that residents swallow a rate increase for less services to find a tone deaf exercise? De-amalgamation will lead to duplication and degradation of services on the whole as councils struggle to fund and staff department. This proposal is just so tone deaf and mindless
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost or service would be negatively impacted by de-amalgamation. Those pushing for de-amalgamation did so out of petty snobbishness-thinking their areas are better than those now part of the same LGA. The range of services you we now have access to is wonderful. As a bigger, unified Council, Inner West can achieve much more than as separate councils.
Remain as Inner West Council	cost outweighs benefit
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost saving with amalgamation and lower council rates.
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost savings Already good service provided Easy to use and generalised library service
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost Service reduction if changed It hasn’t been that bad We have better councillors now
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost to community
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost to de-amagamate Loss of services No real benefit to rate payers
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost to deamalgamate is too high residents shouldn’t have to pay for this with cost of living so high as it is
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost too high Waste of time and resources
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost too much

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost Waste of resources when time could be spent working for thr community Benefits of joint council programs
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost What's done is done
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost, efficiency, waste of 6 years effort if deamalgamate, possibly greater chance of keeping shonky developers and corrupt politicians out of our lives (fat chance!).
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost/ benefit analysis does not support de-amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	Cost-benefit analysis results in little benefit for a large cost IWC is doing a good job See my answers for previous questions
Remain as Inner West Council	Costly to de amalgamate
Remain as Inner West Council	Costs
Remain as Inner West Council	Costs
Remain as Inner West Council	Costs and efficiencies See no benefit or understand issues trying to solve Not able to return to same previous councils as some parts now elsewhere If problem is perceived councilor representation and work, consider alternatives instead
Remain as Inner West Council	Costs and impacts of de-amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	Costs and loss of services
Remain as Inner West Council	Costs and risks of de amalgamation clearly outweigh benefits Relatively happy with current Council services
Remain as Inner West Council	Costs are prohibitive and service levels will diminish
Remain as Inner West Council	costs are too high to de-amalgamte
Remain as Inner West Council	Costs increase I all demerger options Scale means services will always be more expensive Political layers get bloated with more councillors
Remain as Inner West Council	Costs involved to de-amalgamate Happy with current level of services

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Costs outweigh any benefits Disruption from demerger Increased rates Too many small councils in similar cultural/geographical area
Remain as Inner West Council	costs outweigh benefits
Remain as Inner West Council	costs to ratepayers NSW government unlikely to allow de-amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	Council has developed a good momentum and continue the good work they have been doing for the merged community. There is good financial, governance and efficiencies logic that support remaining as Inner West Council. The inner west community as a whole has very similar service needs that the merged council can continue to fulfill. Economies of scale supports the case to maintain the amalgamated council.
Remain as Inner West Council	Council is delivering excellent services under current amalgamated model
Remain as Inner West Council	Council is working well in its current state De-Amalgamation will put my family in a financially disadvantaged position Happy with the level of service as it is
Remain as Inner West Council	Council should concentrate on achieving services for rate payers. Ie maintaining roads and picking up the garbage. Not wasting rate payers money on the initiative at all.
Remain as Inner West Council	Council should focus on maintaining and improving service levels within the current financial structure. "Greater representation" by having smaller councils is meaningless unless that representation has the resources available to it. Ashfield in particular, is too small to be reinstated. Reverting to Ashfield council would offer no more effective representation than the Innerwest Council. The old boundaries are arbitrary/historical anomalies so reverting to them makes no sense. For example, Haberfield is more akin to Five Dock so there is an equally spurious argument that Canada Bay Council should annex Haberfield.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Council unable to demonstrate any benefit to de-amalgamation other than an increase in the number of politicians
Remain as Inner West Council	Council, despite being a government agency, needs to be a viable business. Splitting the business into three is clearly not a viable option due to the spread out / loss of staff, ongoing costs, and need for each council to find funds to “bring themselves into a level of financial stability”. Being amalgamated provides a stronger council who can respond to big issues of climate, our under privileged, our ecology and waterways in a meaningful way An amalgamated council is stronger in defending its people from unwarranted private development, and development caused by TfNSW and DPE. A combined council has a centralised and efficient response to issues,development applications, the design quality and standard of our streets A combined council is stronger than one which is split
Remain as Inner West Council	Current Council is working reasonably well. No need to go back old structure.
Remain as Inner West Council	Current Council works efficiently
Remain as Inner West Council	Current service levels, high standards, and staff professionalism do not warrant the costs and dysfunctions of deamalgamation.
Remain as Inner West Council	Current size of Council provides For a more professional organisat Ion that can be more proffessional More efficient use of resources Lower administrative costs
Remain as Inner West Council	Current system works well. Huge waste of resources to de-amalgamate
Remain as Inner West Council	Currently the centralised council works.
Remain as Inner West Council	Damage is already done and will be very costly to revert and may not be possible as much corporate knowleadge and skill has been lost Economies of scale Ashfield Council will not survive finacnially as stand alone council Larger Council has been better able to push back to State government over development

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	De amalgamation is a waste of time IW council is just fine
Remain as Inner West Council	De amalgamation is not cost effective and will be a major disruption in both services and political representation
Remain as Inner West Council	De- amalgamation is time consuming and costly, taking resources away from core business Efficiencies will be lost if the combined council is broken up Representation by each area is more than adequate with the existing structure The inner west council areas share many of the same concerns Why try to unscramble eggs!
Remain as Inner West Council	De amalgamation means more costs. A little bit more cost for less services than we have currently or a lot more cost for the same services. With the increase in cost of living, we cannot afford council rates rising. I am very happy with IWC as it is.
Remain as Inner West Council	De amalgamation would be horrendously costly and would inevitably result in higher rates and less services De amalgamation would create huge inefficiencies in costs and services due to duplication De amalgamation is an insanely outdated concept… would we de federate the nation because a small, vocal, self interested group wants to feather their own nests De amalgamation serves vested interest groups like developers, political parties, local loudmouths who think their views are the most important Amalgamation has created synergies and cost savings that benefit everyone, not just the few
Remain as Inner West Council	De amalgimation is in efficient and unnessary De amalgimation does not benefit the rate payer
Remain as Inner West Council	De-amalgamating seems like a waste of money No chance for an inner west-wide cycleway plan
Remain as Inner West Council	De-amalgamation campaign implied better services, not the case. De-amalgamation campaign was critical of rate rises, but de-amalgamation will lead to more. If "more councillors" is the benefit, no consideration of increasing numbers on IWC.
Remain as Inner West Council	De-amalgamation does not make sense.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	De-amalgamation is a luxury issue. It will do nothing to improve the lives of ordinary people. It seems like a vanity issue that only effects local politicians.
Remain as Inner West Council	Deamalgamation is a massive waste of resources. Improve what exists. One larger organisation with shared resources can be better. Look at Brisbane city council
Remain as Inner West Council	De-amalgamation is a stupid idea concocted by stupid people. The only idea more stupid was the one to amalgamate in the first place I'm not a moron People's emotional responses to act in a way that supports their inherent parochialism is not a game that government should be joining in with Just grow up and tell the idiots they're wrong
Remain as Inner West Council	De-amalgamation is a waste of money and loss of efficiency.
Remain as Inner West Council	De-amalgamation is a waste of money and resources. Joining small councils together creates efficiencies in the the running of them The Inner West Council is doing a great job, no need to change it at great expense to achieve nothing.
Remain as Inner West Council	de-amalgamation is a waste of rate payers money and time please spend time to make the innerwest council efficient innerwest council has more resources than 3 x small councils
Remain as Inner West Council	De-amalgamation is a waste of rate payers money!
Remain as Inner West Council	Deamalgamation is a waste of resources
Remain as Inner West Council	Deamalgamation is a waste of time and resources
Remain as Inner West Council	De-amalgamation is a waste of time and resources.
Remain as Inner West Council	De-Amalgamation is an expensive waste of time for little benefit.
Remain as Inner West Council	De-amalgamation is expensive and unnecessary. I like the way the current Inner West council operates and I'd hate to see us lose the progress made by Inner West Council.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Deamalgamation is expensive Look ahead to the future, not the past.
Remain as Inner West Council	Deamalgamation is more costly and Council should stop throwing money at this pointless exercise.
Remain as Inner West Council	Deamalgamation is not worth higher rates or service cuts for residents None of the three cases are compelling or better than status quo
Remain as Inner West Council	Deamalgamation is not worth the additional cost. We should not lower the level of services provided
Remain as Inner West Council	de-amalgamation is taking away our certainty and distracting you from doing council work.
Remain as Inner West Council	Deamalgamation is too expensive and reduces the amount spent on services Inner West council is more inclusive and representative of the community Deamalgamation will cause confusion and disrupt services for inner west residents
Remain as Inner West Council	Deamalgamation leads to a loss of services which would be bad for the local community
Remain as Inner West Council	Deamalgamation makes no economic sense
Remain as Inner West Council	Deamalgamation seems to primarily benefit councillors, not residents Inner West is a community, not merely a collection of individual suburbs It is a waste of time and money to revert to separate councils so soon Amalgamation could offer real benefits and efficiencies if councillors do their jobs Surely there are more important things to focus money and effort on
Remain as Inner West Council	De-amalgamation will either mean reduced services or incresedrates

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Deamalgamation will result in lower service levels, or existing service levels at a higher cost to ratepayers. Deamalgamation will result in less overarching strategic thinking, and more NIMBY interest groups Deamalgamation will lessen the ability to attract high quality staff to the smaller council. The existing Inner West Council has undergone a massive disruption through the amalgamation process, and needs time to grow into maturity. It's a waste of money for no tangible benefits - the benefits listed are all perceived rather than factually based: more Councillors per resident doesn't mean better representation if they are poor performing Councillors; right to self-determination can be exercised now in choosing to remain in a larger better resourced council; perceived service level improvements are not borne out by financial modelling; better alignment of Council priorities to communities of interest can be better achieved in a council which
Remain as Inner West Council	De-amalgamation will waste scarce funding and is unlikely to improve overall services. At best it will increase the number of local government representatives enabling more complaints to be lodged without greater chance of addressing them.
Remain as Inner West Council	De-amalgamation would be a massive waste of money. Hurt pride and spite over the forced amalgamation is not a valid motivation to de-amalgamate especially when considering the cost of the exercise, the additional cost to rate payers or the risk of getting inferior services and the impact on the job security of council workers.
Remain as Inner West Council	de-amalgamation would be a stupid waste of money! The politics ofb Leichhardt council was worse than IWC!
Remain as Inner West Council	Deamalganation is a terrible and unnecessary idea
Remain as Inner West Council	De-amalgation is a NIMBY tactic designed to benefit rich homeowners at the expense of everyone else. Services are used by the entire inner west and beyond, and housing is fungible across the area. Representation should be offered

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	to everyone in the area, not in the mini fiefdoms of artificially small councils.
Remain as Inner West Council	Deamalgemation is a waste of time and money
Remain as Inner West Council	Dean alga mating offers no benefits. Economies of scale is the only way to manage development in our council
Remain as Inner West Council	Demalgamtion is a waste of money.
Remain as Inner West Council	De-merging is a waste of time I would sooner see IWC properly integrate its operations and build up its resources to face challenges from state government, climate change and improve Active Transport across the entire municipality
Remain as Inner West Council	Despite difficulties and no perceived benefits no one wants a rate increases. Improvements especially in communication can be made With the Council as at present!
Remain as Inner West Council	Didn’t know the cost involved in deamalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	Didn't vote in 2021 so voicing opinion now
Remain as Inner West Council	Disruption & cost Lack of accountability by council during de-amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	Disruption and increased costs
Remain as Inner West Council	Disruptive and costly There is no reason to de-amalgamate
Remain as Inner West Council	Do not see any real benefit in de-amalgamating
Remain as Inner West Council	Do not think de-amalgamation is in the interest of residents Waste of money and can't see the benefits Previous Ashfield Council were difficult to deal with and poor managers in my opinion and don't see that improving if de-amalgamation proceeds Tendency of smaller councils to micro manage I think services have improved since amalgamation. Do not wish to return to prior levels.
Remain as Inner West Council	Do not want increased costs for services that I'm currently getting Do not support more Councillors and the cost that goes with that Some

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	improvements or infrastructure build after amalgamation are sunk costs & cannot be undone.
Remain as Inner West Council	Doesn’t make sense
Remain as Inner West Council	Doesn't seem worth the cost or hassle
Remain as Inner West Council	Dollars
Remain as Inner West Council	Don’t want rate increases Waste of public funds
Remain as Inner West Council	Don’t want reduced servive Don’t want increase in cost Not broken why change
Remain as Inner West Council	don’t waste millions of dollars on inefficiencies and unnecessary entities, the inner west is a great council area
Remain as Inner West Council	Don’t waste money - demerger would be a ridiculous waste of time & money.
Remain as Inner West Council	Don’t waste money on a business case for a backward step Business cases should demonstrate benefits I see only dis benefits tk rate payers Spending rate payers money on a business case to justify an increase in rates and a decrease in quality of life and services is dumb
Remain as Inner West Council	Don’t waste our money de-amalgamating Current service levels are good. Reducing and causing more cost is worst case Councils were rubbish pre-amalgamation. Let’s not go back to that Don’t want to pay higher executive costs for more burocreacy
Remain as Inner West Council	Done
Remain as Inner West Council	Dont do it its too expensive. The horse has bolted
Remain as Inner West Council	Don't make sense to pay more for the same currently received services
Remain as Inner West Council	Don't move backwards This is purely an identity issue. Numbers don't add up Council clearly committed to analysing this issue but now realise the costs are prohibitive. Council is clearly going through the motions but emphasising the negatives in the hope we vote no and move forward.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Don't support deamalgamation at all Concerned that the business case dies not show any real benefit, just costs and introducing inneficiencies, I don't support smaller government, is U don't support having more councillors I am concerned this survey can be manipulated because there is nothing stopping a supporter of deamalgamation filling in the survey multiple time to skew the outcome
Remain as Inner West Council	Don't want another rate rise. Service level has improved as Inner West council
Remain as Inner West Council	dont want rate rise ashfield residents are especially disadvantaged
Remain as Inner West Council	Dont want to see $ millions wasted on yet another restructure. and a diminution of services that would result. Whilst I was opposed to the merger in the first place ,now that it is established I dont see any advantage in spending $ for no benift
Remain as Inner West Council	don't waste money by losing all that has been achieved under amalgamation don't waste money on staff redundancies don't waste money on extra Councillor and management expenses don't lose enhanced service levels
Remain as Inner West Council	Don't waste more money splitting it up again when its working well. Its great now, I like the new look, represents the area
Remain as Inner West Council	Duplicating work across three councils seems silly
Remain as Inner West Council	Each resident would be expected to pay more for the same or worse service so there is no benefit in de-amalgamation. It would just be paying for more councillors not for better services
Remain as Inner West Council	Economies of scale with single council
Remain as Inner West Council	Economies of scale with. Larger coubcil
Remain as Inner West Council	Efficiencies are greater as a combined IWC
Remain as Inner West Council	Efficiencies have been gained Better service provided Lower cost
Remain as Inner West Council	Efficiencies of scale.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Efficiency
Remain as Inner West Council	Efficiency and cost
Remain as Inner West Council	Efficiency and quality of shared services.
Remain as Inner West Council	Efficiency and service benefits in staying amalgamated.
Remain as Inner West Council	Efficiency Current service level is fine, adds bureaucracy
Remain as Inner West Council	Efficiency Right size
Remain as Inner West Council	Efficiency/ economies of scale
Remain as Inner West Council	Efficiently of amalgamated council
Remain as Inner West Council	Either rates are going to increase for no improvement in service levels or service levels will decrease.
Remain as Inner West Council	Enjoy combined services
Remain as Inner West Council	Enough money has been wasted
Remain as Inner West Council	even if the state agrees to pay for it, we are spending public money on changing administrative structures rather than services to benefit the public it will cost money that is better spent elsewhere it will distract council and reduce service levels we risk losing more good staff from council, who may not want to work at a smaller council. This means services will decline not improve, even if rates go up
Remain as Inner West Council	Everything achieved so far is indicating a healthy council with improved service and community outcomes
Remain as Inner West Council	Expense
Remain as Inner West Council	Expense
Remain as Inner West Council	Fair rates currently Great council currently Waste of money de-emalgamating IWC is great to deal with and efficient Why change a good thing? IWC provide good service
Remain as Inner West Council	Far too disruptive.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Financial costs of deamalgamation mean impacts either on services or costs to residents or both. Supposed benefits of deamalgamation do not justify these impacts or the loss of inherent benefits of an integrated inner west council.
Remain as Inner West Council	Financially stronger as one council Better services as one council Don’t need to pay 3 x executive groups
Remain as Inner West Council	Firstly, the referendum question was poorly worded. The question should have been the same one that staff were given (p.57) People were not well informed about the implications of the question and may even have been misled. The critical point, namely that rates would rise, was not mentioned in the question 62.5% is not 'an overwhelming majority vote' (p.7) given the weaknesses in the referendum process (this household received not communication in re the yes and no cases). The Council's own survey on the subject in Sept 2021 received mainly negative feedback, mainly because of cost and disruption. More Councillors might be nice, but is there any sort of standard for how many Councillors there should be for LGAs? If the Council submits a business case, it should also allow residents to submit their objections to and strong protest against a demerger.
Remain as Inner West Council	Focus on other priorities. Don’t see why need to spend time and money on it
Remain as Inner West Council	Focus on refining the existing set up Customer service levels improved post amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	Following the example of larger and amalgamated councils in other states I am in favour of retaining the amalgamated council. I believe it will be an overal saving to residents across all the difference areas. Local forums will provide us with opportunities to speak directly to council
Remain as Inner West Council	Follows historic trends Avoid duplication Avoid reduced local cohesion Address sense of having been bullied Make a case for the success of amalgamation - perhaps with the help of

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	consultants - and with great care to avoid inflaming objectors
Remain as Inner West Council	For all of the same reasons that I have already outlined In the previous question As an aside. I think this survey blatantly favours de-amalgamation and has made no attempt to be impartial As a marketer, this survey is also not very professional or well done. I hope you haven't wasted any council resources / spending on this
Remain as Inner West Council	For all the reasons why I voted to remain amalgamated IWC Now the cost benefit risk studies have been done, I see no substantial advantage in de-amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	For reasons previously given
Remain as Inner West Council	For reasons stated previously Retain efficiency Target a better quality leadership
Remain as Inner West Council	For reasons that I voted against de-amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	For the above mentioned reasons. There should be no extra cost to us to deamalgamate as we are happy with the current services provided by IWC.
Remain as Inner West Council	For the reasons above that I stated for my vote in the plebiscite.
Remain as Inner West Council	For the reasons against de-amalgamation I set out above Costs of de-amalgamation Inconsistency across inner west, if de-amalgamate Loss of economies of scale Lack of united voice advocating for inner west
Remain as Inner West Council	For the reasons I said in the previous question about my prior votes ie I understand economies of scale I like being part of the Inner West community Untended nature strips are not a good enough reason to deamalgamate
Remain as Inner West Council	For the reasons indicated earlier in this survey
Remain as Inner West Council	For the reasons I've already given.
Remain as Inner West Council	For the reasons stated earlier
Remain as Inner West Council	for the same reasons as given previous

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	For the same reasons I outlined earlier when you asked the same question about my views on de-amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	For the same reasons I voted NO in 2016. The nature of efficient service provision needs a larger geographic area. Having more councillors (this is what it is about) is unnecessary and ineffective The change processes (and changes due to COVID) have made substantial system improvements My interactions with council staff have been positive and efficient Local government is answerable to the State Govt and 'the people' through Parliament. While the process was rushed, it was necessary as most councils cannot raise the funds necessary to deliver services effectively
Remain as Inner West Council	For the same reasons I voted. I don't wish to be charged more for the same services I enjoy now This is another waste of time and money.
Remain as Inner West Council	For the same reasons I voted. It doesn't make sense to split
Remain as Inner West Council	For the same reasons that I didn’t support the demerger in the first place. Nothing has convinced me it would be a good thing to demerger. I support continuing with the amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	For the same reasons that I gave for voting against de-amalgamation in the 2021 poll.
Remain as Inner West Council	Funds and actions should focus on building a united and harmonised Council De-amalgamation would take years and reduce service provision and reduce the focus on improving the functions of the council
Remain as Inner West Council	G
Remain as Inner West Council	Greater sense of community with people in Ashfield and Leichhardt former council areas Create a larger area to exercise and meet family/friends if go into another COVID LGA lockdown Benefits from single admission pass/membership available across multiple public pools in inner west If separate Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville hubs can be maintained, it can

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	create healthy competitive between hubs Potential cost efficiencies although this is minor reason for preference to stay amalgamated. Happy to pay extra rates to create local jobs.
Remain as Inner West Council	Happy the way they are now
Remain as Inner West Council	Happy with council services
Remain as Inner West Council	Happy with current services Increased costs Amalgamation didn't go far enough, should have been larger size I don't understand why people think services will improve, they won't unless the rates go up significantly We have too many politicians as it is.
Remain as Inner West Council	Happy with IWC Happy with leadership
Remain as Inner West Council	Happy with level of service
Remain as Inner West Council	Happy with present amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	Happy with service delivery Don't want the disruption that would come from de-amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	Happy with status quo
Remain as Inner West Council	Happy with the current council management and services Rate reduction
Remain as Inner West Council	Have already said.
Remain as Inner West Council	Have said it all before. Waste of money
Remain as Inner West Council	Having a larger council means that it is able to take on larger more Transformational projects
Remain as Inner West Council	Having amalgamated the council and service work ok so why on earth go through the expense of reversing it
Remain as Inner West Council	High cost little benefit What is the point of "increased representation" if services are worse and/or more expensive
Remain as Inner West Council	High cost of deamalgamation

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	High costs, uncertainty of benefits, no compelling case in favour
Remain as Inner West Council	Huge benefits and cost savings of having an inner west council outway the negatives.
Remain as Inner West Council	Huge waste of money, first of taxpayers to fund the de amalgamation and then of rate payers to keep the level of services.
Remain as Inner West Council	Huge waste of resources to de-amalgamte now. Avoid service disruption. Keep rates lower.
Remain as Inner West Council	I am happy with service provided by IWC I do not want to pay higher rates I want high quality services Smaller councils are less efficient, and more prone to mismanagement We do not need more councillors
Remain as Inner West Council	I am happy with the direction of the inner west council area. I am happy with completed and planned works by the inner west council. I value being part of inner west community and council area. I value efficient use of resources and sharing resources. I do not want my fees to increase for the same service level.
Remain as Inner West Council	I am happy with the status quo
Remain as Inner West Council	I am not convinced that the practical benefits that i would personally experience would outweigh the burden of the rate increases to support the de-amalgamation I like that we can access greater facilities within the bigger council - e.g. access to libraries across the suburbs I am concerned the process is likely going to create too much instability through the implementation process
Remain as Inner West Council	I am now of the view that de-amalgamation is an expensive step backwards and will result in poorer long term outcomes.
Remain as Inner West Council	I am very satisfied with the inner west council. Our family has access to a wider range of services e.g multiple libraries and pools. I have not experienced a decline in any services since the merger. A robust case for a demerger has not been made. It is not clear what the benefits would be. The only thing that is clear is that either rates

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	would need to go up or services cut. The demerger advocates have not set out how the most vulnerable in our community will be impacted by this. It doesn't seem right to move money out of services to fund increased administrative costs that would have to be borne.
Remain as Inner West Council	I believe for all its problems Inner West Council is better than the old Marrickville Council
Remain as Inner West Council	I believe inner west council to be operating efficiently and effectively enough from a residents perspective. I do not see need for change and do not see the benefit for the resident. From an administrative perspective the burden appears very high. I feel sufficiently represented enough. Considering the current economic environment and continued interest rate rises causing mortgage pressure, adding an increased council rate would not be preferred. I further am concerned about the vacuum that would exist while council is de-amalgamating, what care taker arrangements would be taken and how long it would take for councils to be operational again.
Remain as Inner West Council	I believe the benefits of de-amalgamation is less than that of the risks each council has to undertake
Remain as Inner West Council	I believe the existing amalgamated council offers a better and more efficient service and is less prone to corruption.
Remain as Inner West Council	I believe the inner west council is a more effective council than a de-amalgamated one
Remain as Inner West Council	I believe this is the only defensible path forward. Increasing duplication and cost by reestablising 3 councils doesn't make economic or rational sense to me. Deamalgamation is an expensive and unnecessary indulgence with no gain to residents and only increased costs.
Remain as Inner West Council	I can't really see anything that's broken, so don't fix it. The "vote " was not accompanied by any real educational campaign as to the pros and cons of such a decision. The vote was basically a protest

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	vote delivered to politicians in general without much thought, a lot like brexit.
Remain as Inner West Council	I can’t see real benefits in de-amalgamation, the efficiency and service levels as IWC are preferable
Remain as Inner West Council	I can't afford a rates rise at present We can reconsider deamalgamation if cost of living improves in future Seems a waste of money and time to proceed in current climate of strained finances There are other issues which need attention more than this
Remain as Inner West Council	I can't see any advantage in de-amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	I cant see where the manor issues are with the amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	I consider the amalgamation of my former council, Ashfield, with Marrickville and Leichhardt councils to form Inner West Council to have been an improvement, providing better services and a stronger council identity and voice for the shared interests of this area of Sydney.
Remain as Inner West Council	I did not support deamalgamation in the first place I was already aware of the cost implications but this info has confirmed my support for remaining as IWC Inner west council does a good job of managing community affairs
Remain as Inner West Council	I didn’t want amalgamation in the first place, but now it’s done, I don’t want to waste any more council time or money on this issue.
Remain as Inner West Council	I do not believe de-amalgamation is suitable or necessary and I despise wasting time telling the Council this. There are more effective things to be spending time and money on
Remain as Inner West Council	I do not believe we need more people being paid for doing nothing.
Remain as Inner West Council	I do not believe we need more people paid for doing nothing.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	I do not see the merit for de-amalgamation for residents. Residents stand to lose more financially. Residents stand to lose robust representation. The time and funds required to de-amalgamate will result in residentsbeing disadvantaged in terms of continuity and level of service provided by council. Organisational change causes chaos and disorganisation, which is disruptive, and residents will bear the brunt of this. Also, the amalgamation resulted in a lot of waste due to change of logos and identities etc, which I would not like to see happen again.
Remain as Inner West Council	I do not support deamalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	I do not support de-amalgamation. Council will more efficiently and effectively serve ratepayer interests as a larger organisation with access to greater resources and more and better staff to deliver services. Council amalgamations have occurred a number of times in the past and will continue to occur in the future.
Remain as Inner West Council	I do not support de-amalgamation. See my previous response.
Remain as Inner West Council	I do not support demalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	I do not think that there is any good business case for an doing something that's already been done and is functioning well.
Remain as Inner West Council	I do not understand the point or the benefit in reversing the amalgamation. This will disrupt services and cost the community more money - this should not proceed.
Remain as Inner West Council	I do not want an increase in rates. I do not want the inconvenience of de-amalgamation and waste of money accomplishing deamalgamation.
Remain as Inner West Council	I do not want an increase in rates. I do not want the inconvenience of deamalgamation and waste of money accomplishing deamalgamation.
Remain as Inner West Council	I do not want reduced services and/or increased rates.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	I do not wish to add to the cost of my council rates. I also enjoy the freedom of accessing facilities across all three council areas
Remain as Inner West Council	I don't approve of small LGAs as they are inefficient and expensive
Remain as Inner West Council	I don't believe de-amalgamation is a good use of time, resources and money.
Remain as Inner West Council	I don't believe de-amalgamation is worth the cost to ratepayers
Remain as Inner West Council	I don't believe that smaller councils will be able to deliver on the business case as outlined The risk that either rates will sky rocket or services reduce is too high The current macro economic conditions (inflation, higher interest rates, tight jobs market) are not adequately captured in the business case The current macro economic conditions do not favour smaller councils with more politicians and less services capability
Remain as Inner West Council	I don't feel you will deliver better services by de merging
Remain as Inner West Council	I don't see any benefit from de-amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	I don't see any real benefit to the community for further change It sounds more expensive to rate payers to change It risks that more fringe groups could get represented on council if it is broken up, preference is for more sensible representation at council.
Remain as Inner West Council	I don't the benefits of de-amalgamation justify the increased cost incurred by rate payers. We'll all have to pay more for the same or less good service. Dumb stupid idea. Leave the amalgamated council as it is
Remain as Inner West Council	I don't think we need change
Remain as Inner West Council	I don't want a rates increase and councillors distracted from why they were elected in the first place

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	I don’t want additional costs for something that is not needed
Remain as Inner West Council	I don’t want my rates to increase I think it’s a waste of money to amalgamate and then de-amalgamate within 5 years I don’t understand why amalgamation is so bad, I haven’t noticed any decline in service I like things the way they are
Remain as Inner West Council	I don’t want to pay more rates. Inner West council works, there’s no need for smaller councils.
Remain as Inner West Council	I don’t want to pay more. If we stay as we are, ’d like to see Ashfield looked after more. Our street (Orpington St) had a period there of looking like a tip. I requested a communications campaign to deliver pamphlets in multiple languages to educate ppl, which happened.
Remain as Inner West Council	I don’t want to waste time, effort and money on this process. Already it has proved a costly exercise. I don’t like the politics of it. While the amalgamation was political so too is this process. I can’t see what is to be gained. I can only see negatives it in. Not just the cost but the distraction from other more important issues facing the Council such as Climate Change.
Remain as Inner West Council	I don't feel that it is at all necessary to de-amalgamate when it is likely there will be higher rates with a lower service
Remain as Inner West Council	I don't see any advantages in de-amalgamating, only disadvantages
Remain as Inner West Council	I don't see any benefits in the de-amalgamation other than return to the 'glory days' Centralisation of resources in current model provides greater alignment and focus With centralisation, better use and more money to be allocated to projects at scale The amalgamation feels like the council's have not learner from this and need to be more commercially savy
Remain as Inner West Council	I don't see much of an upside is spending funds and resources on this We should be spending the resources on the future of the local area Spend

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	time on creating a more inclusive, green and walkable council
Remain as Inner West Council	I dont support de amalgamation IWC is doing the same job as Ashfield so why go back.
Remain as Inner West Council	I don't think it's worth the increased cost to deamalgamate
Remain as Inner West Council	I don't think the current structure is a problem
Remain as Inner West Council	I don't think we should try to reform the way we were in the past now, too much time has passed. . I am happy with the progress IWC has made recently. I'm happy with the services available to me as a resident. I like living in the IWC area. I want IWC to continue the path of creating a sense of belonging for all the people living here.
Remain as Inner West Council	i don't value what is being offered by de-amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	I don't want increased rates. We should not be wasting time or money on undoing and established council. We don't need more beurocracy with more councillors We should focus on improving current council
Remain as Inner West Council	I dont want to waste money and resources another time.
Remain as Inner West Council	I expect the council to do the job my fees pay for. This is an unnecessary distraction/cost.
Remain as Inner West Council	I explained the reasons earlier. Benefits you listed are BS. There are many benefits of keeping as-is. You are biased and didn't let experts critisize this change. Instead of increasing the number of councillors, stick to your job, be collaborative and serve.
Remain as Inner West Council	I feel it is a waste of resources and money
Remain as Inner West Council	I feel the benefits of being inner west outways the dealgamatiin
Remain as Inner West Council	i feel we have had better services provided and personal services given ie personell than beforeand combined it stopped inner corruption

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	ie Darcey Byrnes situation.more people have a say.rather than one overruling voice.c voice
Remain as Inner West Council	I gave my reasons Stop trying to force this on people We obviously went with Inner West for a reason
Remain as Inner West Council	I have a logical mind
Remain as Inner West Council	I have always supported the merged council and think it is a waste of money to return to the previous model. As a local who has lived here for 10 years, I think the Inner West council is better than Ashfield council and is sustainable for the future
Remain as Inner West Council	I have always supported the merged council.I do not wish to de-amalgamate.
Remain as Inner West Council	I have been satisfied with change
Remain as Inner West Council	I have read the information from this consultants report and see no real benefit articulated with deamalgamation options leading to increased rates and reduction in services. I think council energy AND MONEY should be spent on its services, not seeking some additional levels of representation for special interest groups in diverting council from its core services.
Remain as Inner West Council	I have stated to see benefits
Remain as Inner West Council	I like it how things are now I have access to more things eg libraries, dog parks I like the services such as inner west pets Access to more dog parks. There are hardly any in my old council
Remain as Inner West Council	I like IWC
Remain as Inner West Council	I like the new brand and not sure who would be other mayors
Remain as Inner West Council	I like things the way they are now,I can’t afford more rates.
Remain as Inner West Council	I like what it has done for my local areaa

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	I never supported de-amalgamation and only see increased cost and less efficiency with de-amalgamation. I hope that if de-amalgamation proceeds the tin-pot politicians who are the only ones who will benefit will get a substantially reduced pay, if anything, to account for the cost of the process.
Remain as Inner West Council	I oppose de-amalgamation for reasons stated in earlier question
Remain as Inner West Council	I oppose deamalgamation. I didn't live in the IWC during the vote last year. I don't want to bear the burden of higher rates or lower services. The Council does a great job currently at reflecting my interests, and a smaller council would only become narrowly focused on hyper local interests.
Remain as Inner West Council	I prefer it to stay inner west
Remain as Inner West Council	I prefer not to deamalgamate.
Remain as Inner West Council	I reluctantly vote to remain as is - but I have to say for the majority of voters you are not clearly articulating the services that are now available as a result of amalgamation that weren't available previously - thereforemaking this Survey difficult to complete. My key concern is that grafitti in local neighbourhoods is addressed and i havent been impressed with the response from Inner West council post amalgamation to emails Ive sent. This perpetuates the impression that big (as in council)is not better a
Remain as Inner West Council	I see no downside, and it's great having consistent policies and services across the wider area.
Remain as Inner West Council	I still think keep it as is, as it would be too big a job to de-amalgamate and I'm satisfied with the current situation
Remain as Inner West Council	I strongly support the new amalgamated Council. It has lead to improvements in local government that I'd like to see continued.
Remain as Inner West Council	I support amalgamation. The Poll at the elections was deliberately worded to confuse and cause a vote for deamalgamation.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	I think if most people were aware of the loss of services or increase in costs (or both) they would not have voted for it. It is clear that efficiencies of scale outweighs any “benefits” to return autonomy re previous individual council areas. There is no evidence that having more councillors per rate payer is of benefit to ratepayers. Council should retain its current size and instead focus on more/better service delivery. At this time, increases in rates cannot be forced on ratepayers given the sustained increased in cost of living. The situation is very different from 2021. Council should change its approach as such.
Remain as Inner West Council	I think Inner West Council is more likely to implement reform than each of the 3 smaller Councils. I think its low value as the benefit is marginal and the ongoing Council costs (the State costs are also my costs) aren’t trivial. Apart from the recent disruption caused by Covid, I think the service since amalgamation has improved.
Remain as Inner West Council	I think it has been good
Remain as Inner West Council	I think it’s a waste of money, time and resources
Remain as Inner West Council	I think it’s beneficial to residents
Remain as Inner West Council	I think it's short sighted to de-amalgate. I don't think the communities covered by the inner west council will be well served.
Remain as Inner West Council	I think shared costs is more efficient. There is definitely room for improvement but I feel the new council is already making improvements
Remain as Inner West Council	I think that services are much better now and see no benefit in de amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	I think this has all been a waste of time and money
Remain as Inner West Council	I voted to no de-amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	I want the efficiencies implemented to date maintained and for the future, improved upon
Remain as Inner West Council	I want the efficiency to do maintained. Keep cost down Remove politics from local government

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	I would rather council to continue to improve its performance in its current amalgamated state The costs associated with new staff and other replication is not attractive at all The costs associated with the transition to deamalgamation are a complete waste of money Costs of living are high as it is. We should not be creating more jobs to spend more rate payer's money.
Remain as Inner West Council	I'm happy with the present situation stay with Inner West Council
Remain as Inner West Council	I'm happy with the services provided I feel older less digital people are those pushing to de-amalgamate Current cost of living is high enough without raising rates
Remain as Inner West Council	I'm satisfied by the current levels of service and representation and I like the ability to find council services over a larger area.
Remain as Inner West Council	I've already provided responses in previous question
Remain as Inner West Council	I've been happy with the service as it is
Remain as Inner West Council	If it ain't broke, don't fix it.
Remain as Inner West Council	If it's even an option to make services worse, I'm even more strongly against deamalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	If it's not broken, don't fix it. De-amalgamation would incur significant costs for no benefit.
Remain as Inner West Council	If there is going to be a deficit or a loss of services it means we shouldn't do it. None of the options are good options
Remain as Inner West Council	If we de-amalagamate, we would have to triplicate council chambers and services rather than having all councils serviced by one administration. We would becoming a bit parochial if we de-amalagamate.
Remain as Inner West Council	Im happy enough with the current council. Services are fine, my needs are met Deamalgamation is going to be more expensive than the original amalgamation Unlike the useless

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	greens and independent councillors I'm not interested in living in the past
Remain as Inner West Council	I'm not prepared to pay greater rates for no tangible benefit
Remain as Inner West Council	Im ok with current level if service and we have already incurred Cost for the original amalgamation… what a waste if money changing everyones rubbish bins to have new branding etc! Certainly dont want more money wasted again to rebrand and restructure-i cant afford another hike in rates!
Remain as Inner West Council	Im satisfied with the council and don't see why we should go back
Remain as Inner West Council	In all provided information there are no positives for Dr amalgamation More cost to citizens for less service is a bad outcome No more councilors needed! Inner West Council is functioning well as far as I can see Business case for de merger is a waste of rate payers money
Remain as Inner West Council	In every circumstance, deamalgamation will lead to higher rates and worse services. The damage of amalgamation is now done, our energy should be focused on making IWC work.
Remain as Inner West Council	In my opinion I can't see any advantages to the rate payer in a deamalgamation. I can only see extra costs and waste. The current system is working so why not improve the current system under the amalgamation.
Remain as Inner West Council	In the four years since the Inner West was amalgamated, the Marrickville Library was opened on the site of the heritage-listed old Marrickville Hospital, and earlier this year was nominated for the 2021 Public Library of the Year Award. Balmain's newly renovated Dawn Fraser Baths was also reopened to the public in September this year after two years without visitors. de-amalgamation is simply not required for a current area that shares more similarities than differences.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Increased cost of deamalgamation looks to be more than what we currently are in.
Remain as Inner West Council	Increased cost under deamalgamation Current system is working
Remain as Inner West Council	Increased costs in services if deamalgamate Managing risks Loss of economies of scale if deamalgamate Reduced professionalism if staff spread over three areas Reduced service levels if deamalgamate
Remain as Inner West Council	Increased costs of de-amalgamation do not offer better service. Inner West Council operating efficiently as is
Remain as Inner West Council	Increased costs to ratepayers during a cost of living crisis - high inflation and rising interest rates for mortgagees Better services and economies of scale by staying as one council The current Inner West community has one look and feel. Old arbitrary council borders don't make sense.
Remain as Inner West Council	Increased costs to residents for a poorer level than f service than is currently provided
Remain as Inner West Council	Increases costs to go back to what we had , my rates increased already under the merger so why would I want this reversed ? To pay more to an already inefficient council …… Better off to keep as inner west council and work on improving efficiency and cost savings across all aspect of local government It would help if all the councillors stopped fighting each other and wasting rate payers money
Remain as Inner West Council	Increasing costs of services to the constituency seems like a very tone-deaf decision to make given the current state of the economy and rising costs of living. There seem to be little to no tangible benefit to the everyday ratepayer as a result of any demerger activity. Sustaining efficiencies gained through the merger should be the top priority of the council as that is what will provide the greatest benefit to the most people. There seems to be an overall lack of value to be delivered by the de-amalgamation to justify the impact to the community by unsettling the current

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	operating rhythm of the council. The amalgamation took place only 6 years ago, I would argue that the council have not given the existing operating model enough time to embed or work out challenges within the new structure before proposing to tear it all down.
Remain as Inner West Council	Increasing costs to maintain levels of service is not satisfactory The case for de-amalgamation is weak
Remain as Inner West Council	Inefficient to de-amalgamate and a waste of money. The area is not large. One council is adequate. Sydney is changing. One council enables a wider perspective Smaller councils can be insular Utilise resources responsibly. Saved moneyvon one council canbe yed in much needed areas.
Remain as Inner West Council	Inefficient use of government money
Remain as Inner West Council	Inner West Council are doing a good job in enhancing the lives of residents. Big is better in getting things done but it is not too big as to be inefficient.
Remain as Inner West Council	Inner West council functions better than ever before It's a gigantic waste of money to de-amalgamate Costs would only increase for residents while service levels will decrease
Remain as Inner West Council	Inner West Council has performed exceptionally. The referendum that has led to this rediculous situation was sprung on residents with no background information to make informed decisions. Therefore the referendum should be null and void.
Remain as Inner West Council	Inner West Council have sent out a 'case for de-amalgamation'. It states that de-amalgamation will provide 'some perceived service level improvements. There would be no actual improvements. Service levels improved since amalgamation. The document states that council rates and costs will increase by more than double if there were a de-merger. There are still libraries,

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	great libraries in fact, in Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville. There are no differences in the policies, needs, etc between these th
Remain as Inner West Council	Inner West Council is doing a fantastic job so why change a good thing. Plus I cannot afford to pay higher rates.
Remain as Inner West Council	Inner West Council is doing a good job, regular bulletin updates make me feel they represent the local areas and have our best interests at heart.
Remain as Inner West Council	Inner west council is faster at providing outcomes than pre amalgamation Ashfield pools finally got redeveloped Streets are cleaner and cleaned regularly under inner west council
Remain as Inner West Council	Inner West Council is functioning well as an amalgamated entity
Remain as Inner West Council	Inner West Council is performing just fine - de-amalgamation is a waste of money Cost of living and inflation is already hitting households hard so why create more pain
Remain as Inner West Council	Inner west council makes sense. Some changes need to be made to allow More local review of developments but the council should remain and Residents have access to all the services, cultural events, and shared management.
Remain as Inner West Council	Inner West Council provides a better service
Remain as Inner West Council	Inner West Council should focus on improving service levels prior to amalgamation. It is incorrect to say service levels have improved across all services following amalgamation. Trees and plants in green spaces need to be pruned and maintained more frequently. Paths are overgrown. The twice annual Council cleanups need to be reinstated. Lighting is poor in most streets in Leichhardt except Norton and Marion Streets. Nature strips need to be mowed more frequently as occurred prior to de-amalgamation.
Remain as Inner West Council	Inner west council works fine.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Inner West Council Your Waste is much better services than the old Ashfield Council. I also enjoyed being part of a bigger council and feeling like the inner west is one municipality. I do not want to go back to what we had before. I also get the benefit of lots of other services including more libraries and better refuse and garbage removal.
Remain as Inner West Council	Inner west has a clear identity now Huge waste of money de amalgamating and then supporting smaller councils I do not feel under represented by councillors who now represent larger wards Able to influence state government more effectively as a larger Council
Remain as Inner West Council	Inner west is a good identity
Remain as Inner West Council	Inner west rules
Remain as Inner West Council	Innerwest Council has wasted enough money on trying to de-amalgamate If they put in half the effort to get things working as they do trying to de-amalgamate we as rate payers would be a lot better off Focus on what council should do - and if they can't then time for new people to be voted in and the current people to find other jobs
Remain as Inner West Council	Insane to go backwards Increased costs of deamalgamation Reduced services if deamalgamation goes ahead
Remain as Inner West Council	Insufficient understanding of actual tangible benefits of deamalgamation apart from some people fee like better represented due to higher number of counsellors to residents The case for additional cost to households for an uncosted benefit is not strong IWC need to explore alternative ways of making residents feel like they have a voice and are represented instead of full demerger as an option to achieve that
Remain as Inner West Council	It ain’t broke, don’t try to fix it!
Remain as Inner West Council	It does not make sense. More cost and some “perceived” service level improvements
Remain as Inner West Council	It ensures better control over councils by the elected govt representative of the people.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	It gives us a stronger voice and political power when dealing with State Governemnt in the longer term. Three separate councils with relatively small geographical size with no global strategic function like City of Sydney needs to band together. Greenway project overlaps three Councils, last thing we want are three separate planning authorities dealing with it. South East Queensland Council is a good example.
Remain as Inner West Council	It has been better and more professional and accountable as the Inner West Council - way better with shared facilities and specialist staff.
Remain as Inner West Council	It has taken a lot of time and money to merge the councils. It doesn't make sense to demerge. The only thing I dislike since the council merged is the cancelation of council clean up, and also the lowering of standards in relation to DA's in heritage conservation areas
Remain as Inner West Council	It is a complete waste of money to deamalgamate Spend money on being the best council you can
Remain as Inner West Council	It is a distraction from council business
Remain as Inner West Council	It is a massive waste of money
Remain as Inner West Council	It is a waste of money to consider de amalgamation.
Remain as Inner West Council	It is a waste of money to de-amlgamate. The decision is not in the best interest of rate payers
Remain as Inner West Council	It is absurd to pay more money for a lower level of service.
Remain as Inner West Council	It is clear that a de-amalgamation will not provide significant improved public service to offset increased costs De-amalgamation will result in significant increased costs and less financially sustainable local government. De-amalgamation is only a political action and not in the public's best interest.
Remain as Inner West Council	It is clear that council can deliver more for the community in its current form than it could as three separate councils

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	It is done now, find a way to make it work
Remain as Inner West Council	It is done, let's not waste money deamalgamating
Remain as Inner West Council	It is Estimated that de-amalgamation would cost an additional $2,25Million in Executive Staff & Councillor costs alone, without gaining efficiencies or additional, improved Services & amenities. The Ratepayer gets slugged again!!
Remain as Inner West Council	It is far too expensive to achieve It is absolutely unnecessary It doesn't gain the community any
Remain as Inner West Council	It is more responsible
Remain as Inner West Council	It is obvious that de-amalgamation will be a waste of money. How much has been spent on the consultant's report? That fact that consultant's were hired proves that senior management and Councillors do not know enough about the running of their own organisation.
Remain as Inner West Council	It is pointless and a waste of money to deamalgamate
Remain as Inner West Council	It is simply stupid to increase cost to provide lower service. Decreasing the efficiency and productively Decreasing the ability to start bigger and better project Increasing in redundancy and cost Increasing selected fews of influence on the council and steering in their benefit instead of the majority of the public. And so many other reasons. Frankly de-amalgamation is one of the most stupid idea I've heard.
Remain as Inner West Council	It is so unnecessary and wasteful to change back.
Remain as Inner West Council	It is superior to stay amalgamated Deamalgamation is not in the best interests of residents Deamalgamation is a waste of time and money This is a distraction from the proper work of council It's the best outcome for the area
Remain as Inner West Council	It is the better option
Remain as Inner West Council	it is unnecessary to waste ratepayers money for a service that will be no better than the present and some of the benefits of a broader combined council are lost.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	It is working better now than ever before.
Remain as Inner West Council	It is working on so many levels Impact on staff There was no no votes or claims presented
Remain as Inner West Council	It is working pretty well It gives the best service per dollar There is sufficient representation now
Remain as Inner West Council	It just doesn't add up financially. In order to continue operating services at the current level, the split councils would need to incur significant debt whilst still raising rates! The loss of corporate knowledge built up since amalgamating in 2016 will take YEARS to rebuild in the reinstated de-amalgamated councils
Remain as Inner West Council	It makes little sense to de- amalgamate
Remain as Inner West Council	It makes more sense to have an inner west council. Small councils are inefficient.
Remain as Inner West Council	It makes no financial sense to de-amalgamate Haberfield didn't get a good deal in the old Ashfield LGA as it had less in common with Ashfield than other areas of the Inner West Services are shared across the LGA - ie., Leichhardt pool is far closer to walk to than Ashfield pool
Remain as Inner West Council	It makes no sense that the efficiencies achieved post-merger should be discarded. The idea of returning to smaller footprints and reinstating duplicated resources is laughable. Despite the results of the LGA survey, I find it wrong that ratepayers would actually want to pay more for fewer projects.
Remain as Inner West Council	It makes the most financial sense De amalgamation will have no benefit to service levels It is the least wasteful option It allows Council to get on and do its job I do not want more Councillors, I want less and a more cost effective council
Remain as Inner West Council	It seems a waste of my money as a tax payer!
Remain as Inner West Council	It seems like a waste of time
Remain as Inner West Council	It will cost a lot to de-amalgamate, with no real benefit. Pushing the cost of this inefficient idea onto rate payers is a terrible solution. Particularly

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	as some are already very stretched financially already.
Remain as Inner West Council	It will cost more than the estimates, staff have already lost their jobs, and it will not move services forward
Remain as Inner West Council	It will cost the rate payer more for no benefit
Remain as Inner West Council	It will create inefficiencies for no tangible benefits, and will cost me more
Remain as Inner West Council	It will increase costs for no benefit from my perspective. Also, a huge waste of time when council could be concentrating on other things.
Remain as Inner West Council	It works
Remain as Inner West Council	It works and cost less
Remain as Inner West Council	It would be a waste of money It would cause unnecessary disruption We would all have a say over a smaller area
Remain as Inner West Council	It would be a waste of resources to de-amalgamate. What is this, brexit?
Remain as Inner West Council	It would be expensive to de-amalgamate and not worth it. Council should be focused in delivering its core priorities not distracted by de-amalgamation.
Remain as Inner West Council	It would be such an incredible waste of resources, for such virtually no gain except to right a precieved injustice. Paying more executive staff to do concurrent functions rather than adding to the cultural, social and environmental quality fo the area makes no sense.
Remain as Inner West Council	It would make things better
Remain as Inner West Council	It's a total waste
Remain as Inner West Council	It's a waste of money
Remain as Inner West Council	It's a waste of our money
Remain as Inner West Council	It's a waste of time and money to deamalgamate. The state government is likely to say no anyway but meanwhile it's sucking up the attention of staff and councillors.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	It's an effective, representative council structure. Deamalgamation is a retrograde step Strategic communication, like this draft business case, illuminates the lack of a case for reversal.
Remain as Inner West Council	It's better the way it is
Remain as Inner West Council	It's come together now. It does not make sense to break it up to the old councils from an economic point of view. I also feel represented.
Remain as Inner West Council	It's efficient, it's working fine
Remain as Inner West Council	It's functioning well. Stop looking back
Remain as Inner West Council	It's great the way it is! Inner West Council has been doing such an awesome job. There is no reason to change.
Remain as Inner West Council	It's just a ploy to give salaries to more Counsellors So much money has already been spent amalgamating it is a waste to back
Remain as Inner West Council	It's just smarter economically to stay one major council
Remain as Inner West Council	It's most cost effective to have 1 council considering the operation cost A council with more talents from all suburbs and learn from each other and share resource and experience Ashfield needs a lot more attention as the shopping centre is so run down. Broken lifts, leaking ceilings, out dated retailers. As one of the major shopping center in inner west, Ashfield mall should be upgraded to welcome more residents, especially young families. Liverpool road is so congested and considering the amount of luxury apartments built in Ashfield, the facilities are limiting the market and value of the properties.
Remain as Inner West Council	It's smart business sense
Remain as Inner West Council	It's working well. IWC needs time to truly realise the benefits from amalgamation. De amalgamation will just result in more change costs and a loss of focus on services during the process.
Remain as Inner West Council	It's a complete waste of money and we would be worse off financially, socially, and environmentally

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	It's a dumb idea with poor arguments as to why it's better Do not make this a mini-brexit. You have the information to decide and residents have not been engaged sufficiently to make this decision no quantification of capital budgets has been highlighted. This is significant and should be provided to rate payers. There has been no direct argument as to why we should pay more for less service and costings of the 'benefits' of deamalgamation. These should be shown and represented in the same light. If they are not available then it is not a fair comparison. How about focusing on the service provision rather than this. The service provision is more efficient in every way so why are we discussing this further
Remain as Inner West Council	Its a great council, why waste the time effort investigating deamalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	It's a pointless exercise You will anger the vocal Yes voters if a business case isn't at least submitted
Remain as Inner West Council	it's a ridiculous waste of money to run 3 x administrations and infrastructure if there's a way for me to get what i'm getting for no extra cost why would i do that?
Remain as Inner West Council	It's a waste of money
Remain as Inner West Council	It's a waste of money now to undo what has been done and in place for years. There are economies of scale by being a larger LGA eg for waste removal and communications I had to deal with staff at the former Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils while working for City of Sydney. The staff were unhelpful, not up to date with best practice and had no funds to contribute to a joint project
Remain as Inner West Council	It's a waste of money to de-amalgamate No pros
Remain as Inner West Council	It's a waste of resources to deamalgamate
Remain as Inner West Council	It's better for the community More councillors is worst for operation of the council Saves jobs

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	It's extremely expensive and time-consuming with little chance of success and risking a hit to ratepayers and council services. Even if we submit the best possible business case, I don't believe the Govt will support it - they have no incentive to. They certainly won't pay for it so residents will be left to bear costs. Let's remain as one and work towards the best Inner West we can be.
Remain as Inner West Council	Its great the way it is
Remain as Inner West Council	It's outrageous to suggest we need to waste more ratepayer money to de-amalgamate for no significant or guaranteed benefit to local residents and to simply introduce more inneficiencies and administrative overhead, I am strongly opposed to de-amalgamation but rather should look at greater amalgamation where it can drive further efficiencies
Remain as Inner West Council	It's simply a waste of time and money to go back to the de-amalgamation council Let's take what we have and make it work better for all residents and businesses.
Remain as Inner West Council	It's working! Leave it alone! Too expensive & time-consuming to de-amalgamate Will cost a lot of money leading to increased rates Councils were dudded by State Liberal Govt & not given the promised funds to merge. Won't guarantee better services & amenities.
Remain as Inner West Council	IWC does a great job and is more streamlined and cheaper
Remain as Inner West Council	IWC is more effective, efficient, strategic thinking
Remain as Inner West Council	IWC is noticeably more effective than the old Ashfield Council.
Remain as Inner West Council	IWC provides excellent service More local representation is not needed Cost to de-amalgamate are too high
Remain as Inner West Council	IWC provides good representation, service and ability.
Remain as Inner West Council	IWC provides superior service levels at less cost than individual councils. I would face much higher

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	rates to maintain service levels. Single IWC can govern in a more rational, less "special interest" dominated way than smaller councils.
Remain as Inner West Council	IWC works well, and deamalgamation would cost a lot for no discernible benefit
Remain as Inner West Council	Jus a waste of money, no benefit and ingoung increased rates for no increased services. The report in 2021 was misrepresenred at the election by supporters of de amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	Just fix what currently isn't working as well as it should.
Remain as Inner West Council	Keep efficiencies and rates low
Remain as Inner West Council	Keep focus on issues rather than wasting time and money
Remain as Inner West Council	Keep rates at current level Continue providing same service No increase to staff costs
Remain as Inner West Council	Lack of necessity to de-amalgamate
Remain as Inner West Council	Large councils can do so much more for their communities.
Remain as Inner West Council	Larger size council area provides significant efficiencies and reduced duplication of service provision. Cost saving for rate payer. Stronger lobby power to State Government. No matter how small or large a council is, some residents do not receive any greater or less representation. Efficiency efficiency efficiency
Remain as Inner West Council	Les government. There are always people who wish to change no matter what, leave things alone and move on.
Remain as Inner West Council	Less bureaucracy,more efficiency, no increase in rates
Remain as Inner West Council	Less costly to change everything, the current amalgamation to me is providing a good service level , rates have been harmonised over the inner west councils why change back when amalgamation is sustainable .
Remain as Inner West Council	less costly../.more efficient

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Let us focus on more important matters instead of loosing time, energy and money because local councillors want more power....
Remain as Inner West Council	Let's just move forward and make the inner west awesome Deamalgamation is a waste of time and money
Remain as Inner West Council	Lets just get on with being the best we can be. This whole debate is a waste of time and money.
Remain as Inner West Council	Lets make the best of the current situation and not waste further money on a demerger
Remain as Inner West Council	Level of service and cost minimisation
Remain as Inner West Council	Like the current service Makes sense one Council manages a group of closely located suburbs for efficiency Don't want increase in levies with all other increases in costs of living
Remain as Inner West Council	Long term economic cost outweighs the benefits Deamalgamation will mean reduced services being provided to residents by the council for an increased cost Deamalgamation is short sighted. Over the long term three smaller local councils will have a smaller and smaller voice and influence at a state government level, leading to fewer, more costly services to residents There are more costs (economic and reduction in services) to benefits od deamalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	Loss of efficiencies Waste of public resources to de-amalgamate Parochial vs district view of planning Much more pressing priorities Rates would increase
Remain as Inner West Council	Lower overall costs Higher efficiencies (economies of scale) Same representation outcomes
Remain as Inner West Council	Lower rates
Remain as Inner West Council	Maintain current costs and services
Remain as Inner West Council	maintain current service level
Remain as Inner West Council	Maintain current services in cost effective way Money has been spent to amalgamate. Waste of public money - ours -to de amalgamate Very limited benefits from de amalgamation

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	Embarrassing; we should be moving forwards not backwards Waste of time and money
Remain as Inner West Council	Maintaining the bay run is a huge expenditure when most people in ashfield live too far away anyways. It is actually more frequently used by Leichhardt population I have grown to like the inner west brand Deamalgamation seems like a waste of tax payer funds
Remain as Inner West Council	Makes more sense from a financial and efficient service provision Current service levels are good Poor use of funds
Remain as Inner West Council	Makes much more sense to all come together as a big community rather than try and de-amalgamate into siloes
Remain as Inner West Council	Marrickville council provided very little to 2044 in general Tempe locality and shopping strip allowed to deteriorate with no plans to promote. Shops and buildings abandoned. Efficiency's of scale with IWC Higher likelihood of safer pedestrian connections between Marrickville and Tempe. Especially for school children.
Remain as Inner West Council	Minimise cost impact to rate payers
Remain as Inner West Council	Money can be better spent elsewhere
Remain as Inner West Council	More efficient
Remain as Inner West Council	More efficient
Remain as Inner West Council	More efficient and great service
Remain as Inner West Council	More efficient IWC is more professional Prefer larger Lga
Remain as Inner West Council	More efficient LCC was poor
Remain as Inner West Council	More efficient to run Don't need to pay more to maintain same level of services Less overhead
Remain as Inner West Council	More resources to support the area
Remain as Inner West Council	Most cost effective option
Remain as Inner West Council	Most cost-effective option

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	move forward and focus on more important things
Remain as Inner West Council	Much better this way, de merge only suits the councillors.
Remain as Inner West Council	Much money and time has already been invested in the amalgamation process and I have noticed no ill effects from it. Would be a waste of money to now reverse the process.
Remain as Inner West Council	My services have not changed in a way that has impacted my life since amalgamation. I do not support deamalgamation and the current economic situation is not a good time for residents to be having current services uprooted and changed or to have significant increases in costs that many cannot afford.
Remain as Inner West Council	My view is the same as in the original survey Don't break the IWC and waste public funds
Remain as Inner West Council	No benefit in de amalgamation Why go to a less efficient system? Why lower service levels? Why reduce quality of service? Avoid massive disruption
Remain as Inner West Council	No benefit to change again Addition costs to de amalgamate Additional cost to residents for no increase in services
Remain as Inner West Council	No benefit to deamalgamating Deamalgamating will just cause disruptions to service and diversion of resources and attention Makes no sense Will lose benefits of economies of scale and resource pooling
Remain as Inner West Council	No benefit to deamalgamation. Costly to run multiple councils. I like the iwc Iwc has more clout.
Remain as Inner West Council	No benefit to the community Increased costs to everyone Long term outcomes poor
Remain as Inner West Council	No benefits to de amalgamation Can't unscramble an egg Increased cost Scale of amalgamated council better for achieving goals
Remain as Inner West Council	No benefits to rate payers for de amalgamation

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	No difference would be made from the 22 years of living in the area so why change back to a system that serves councillors rather than the people.
Remain as Inner West Council	No efficiencies to be gained by deamalgamation Further efficiencies can be made by Council actively making the amalgamation work (I don't believe they put in a full effort to make it work, given it was foisted onto them (Lab/Green Council) by the Liberal State government "We didn't vote for it / greater democracy" argument for deamalgamation is a limited vision, with no tangible benefits Costs of deamalgamation will be recovered in either increased rates or increased fees for service
Remain as Inner West Council	No good reason to deamalgamate Let the council focus on providing better services, not futile political battles
Remain as Inner West Council	No interest in de-amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	No issues with the current IWC
Remain as Inner West Council	No need to change. Inner west council is able to complete the job at hand. Bigger area means smarter spending on bigger tasks. Less money spend on virtue signalling signage the better
Remain as Inner West Council	No need to de-amalgamate
Remain as Inner West Council	No need to de-amalgamate - waste of time
Remain as Inner West Council	NO ONE (apart from people who live in Balmain and can afford it) wants increased rates! The level of service is fine and the rates are too high as it is. Demalgamation is a postcode snobbery issue, not a service issue. The previous Ashfield Council was terrible. I much prefer the inner west council. Dealgamation is a massive waste of rate payer money
Remain as Inner West Council	No option on the last slide saying if it remained the same Do these costs include inflation
Remain as Inner West Council	No quantifiable benefits demonstrated to de-amalgámate.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	No reason to deamalgamate and increase costs to ratepayers
Remain as Inner West Council	No saving of money or increase in service has been proven and no examples globally have been presented as a case study either. Get back to representing peoples views on other key topics.
Remain as Inner West Council	No service benefits provided to residents No economic benefits provided to residents
Remain as Inner West Council	No significant benefits for residents Cost more of public money on changing system and staff
Remain as Inner West Council	No tangible advantage to de-amalgamating. As per prior reasons given for the advantages of amalgamation - economies of scale and improved coordination across council's footprint
Remain as Inner West Council	No tangible benefits to residents, just posturing by council and leadership There is significant inflation coming and this will only exacerbate the problem Councillors and mayor only thinking of themselves
Remain as Inner West Council	none of the 4 'benefits' are benefical. more councillors per resident can be achieved in the current council if desired, 'self determination' is historical bitterness and the other two can't be more wishy washy. the on-going distraction & disruption of de-amalgamation. increased costs and potentially more petty politicians with specific axes to grind i've lived in all previous council areas and they make a logical fit together. if de-amalgamation proceeds, then all councils will be under an administrator for years which ironically was one of the factors upsetting the pro de-amalgamation groups during amalagamtion.
Remain as Inner West Council	Not a priority
Remain as Inner West Council	Not supportive of ANY increases in costs
Remain as Inner West Council	Not the greatest priority at the moment
Remain as Inner West Council	Not worth the cost Just finished the process of amalgamation, don’t want to have to restart again Good to have a united council across the inner west that can support larger events

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Not worth the costs of deamalgamation. Inner west functions well
Remain as Inner West Council	Not worth the expense even to put together a business case Better to put the money into finishing the Greenway Better to put the money into outdoor dining areas for businesses that are struggling Better to spend the money adding lighting along the cooks river Better to spend the money adding mini golf to Marrickville golf club for the kids with a suburb represented in each hole by local artist installations
Remain as Inner West Council	Not worth the money
Remain as Inner West Council	Nothing has changed since the election and I voted against it then. The campaign for de-amalgamation was generally disingenuous, with almost no attention to the costs and benefits And no concrete arguments for benefits to anyone were presented by those backing the de-amalgation case This was and remains an emotional argument being fanned by those who would directly benefit - councillors with eye on the extra jobs for themselves. There is NO "business case" in any rational sense of the phrase.
Remain as Inner West Council	Now that an actual cost and business case has been drafted, which should have been done prior to asking the residents such a consequential question, we can see that it will increase debt, rates and reduce services well into the future. Now we have a notion of some type of 'mandate' to complete the 'democratic will of the people' who were misled by self-interested actors and who did not fully reveal the true cost of what they seek to achieve. There is still no clear benefit to demerging. Option A - Break up but do the same as if you hadn't. Why? Complete waste of money and time. Option B - De-merge and return to the prior service level, which will increase costs and reduce quality. Why? Wat a waste of time and money, again. And Option C - Demerge and reduce services. The only proposal that doesn't increase rates but massively reduces service quality. Again, I ask, why? What is the benefit? Considering the true cost in the draft report, I would be curious to

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	see how many demerge voters would make the same choice, hence this question. As the original poll was just as non-binding as this survey, can the results of survey be considered when determining whether to submit a business case to the Boundaries Commission? Leave the 'democracy gave us this mandate to fulfil the will of the people' garbage at the door, be pragmatic and actually consider the updated concerns of residents and make the right choic
Remain as Inner West Council	numbers dont stack up poor communication inefficencies and increased potential of corruption on smaller councils
Remain as Inner West Council	Once again, stop wasting money and resources, get on with it in its new form It works better now than it ever did.
Remain as Inner West Council	One large council has cost advantages over smaller councils duplicating services
Remain as Inner West Council	Operationally Efficient Commercially Viable Standardised Services for Inner West Reduced Overheads
Remain as Inner West Council	Options A, B and C are all less satisfactory than the status quo
Remain as Inner West Council	options are either maintaining current standard or reducing standards. None of the options offer a scenario for an improvement in services, and this should be an overarching goal. there are many new issues facing the Innerwest around new developments such as WestConnex, and Council needs to have a strong presence and profile to advocate for the local communities affected by these projects. this is no time to revert to 'small council' model Probable costs are likely to be higher, due to risk of unforseen / hidden issues the original poll question was poorly framed - with no

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	supporting research or evidence base for respondents to make well informed decisions
Remain as Inner West Council	Our council is great
Remain as Inner West Council	Over the last six months I have seen an enhanced level of service provision in the following areas that would not have been possible with the previous Leichhardt Council: 1. Community Gardens 2. Library Services 3. Active transport planning.
Remain as Inner West Council	Overall it's a waste of money and services are better now than before.
Remain as Inner West Council	Personal preference
Remain as Inner West Council	Personally I have not been disadvantaged my the amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	Please don't waste the time, energy and cost of pursuing this. All 3 options will reduce the quality of service provision. Please focus on consolidating the amalgamation and improving the quality of IWC.
Remain as Inner West Council	Please see detailed responses to previous question on why I voted to not amalgamate at the poll. Nothing has significantly changed to alter my opinion since that point. No clear, material benefits and many significant risks.
Remain as Inner West Council	Please stop wasting money on this issue. It’s done and let’s move on.
Remain as Inner West Council	pointless expensive exercise
Remain as Inner West Council	Prefer a larger council - too many small councils in Sydney Waste of money to de-amalgamate and rates would rise Larger councils have more influence at State level Larger councils have more buying power when conducting commercial negotiations I like the Inner West Council

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Prefer current service levels Current efficiencies better than an alternative with deamalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	Preparing a business case will show that de-amalgamation will likely lead to increased costs for residents and/or reduced levels of service. It is also likely to be rejected by the relevant Minister as an uneconomic and expensive folly. Preparing a business case which is likely to be rejected is a waste of time and resources which could be better spent by Council on providing much-needed local services. Councillors should focus on improving the performance and sustainability of the Inner West Council rather than
Remain as Inner West Council	Previously stated
Remain as Inner West Council	Projected costs outweigh benefits Combined council is working satisfactorily More efficiencies can be found with lager councils
Remain as Inner West Council	Providing a business case won't change anything
Remain as Inner West Council	Put effort into doing what councils do, not endless reorganisation.
Remain as Inner West Council	Rates increased but there were some positive changes. Now that we think we are settled we shouldn't change again, it will just generate more costs, more admin and more time wasted. We should instead focus on the real issues our community faces, like public transport, environment and cost of living.
Remain as Inner West Council	Rates went down and services went up with amalgamation. Why would you undo such a good thing! Cost of livong is rising and the proposal of de-amalgamation will raise costs and reduce services. This makes no sense. De-amalgamation is only in the interests of councillors who lost their jobs with the amalgamation. The fact that the inner west council does more and charges less is proof that amalgamation was a positive move!! I love being part of the inner west council and bought a house there because the services were so good.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Rates will almost certainly increase, and there will be no additional benefits for ratepayers. We already have good local representation and communication from the present council.
Remain as Inner West Council	Reasons for de-amalgamation are unclear Costs involved of both administrative changes + on-going rate increases required to maintain services Would involve a lot of disruption for no particular benefit, apart from an ideal of 'smaller councils' Services are better now than when Ashfield was our local council
Remain as Inner West Council	Reduce cost and a waste of time
Remain as Inner West Council	Reduce risk to community Stability in efficiency gains made since 2016 Lower risk of council financial troubles or administrators needing to be appointed Maintenance of service levels at current rate levels Stop wasting public resources
Remain as Inner West Council	Reduce spending on restructuring what seems to be functioning satisfactorily at the moment
Remain as Inner West Council	Reduced disruption to community service No increase of fees/reduce of services No redundancies Continued cohesion across Inner West communities No increase in burocuracy
Remain as Inner West Council	Refer previous
Remain as Inner West Council	Refer to answers submitted previously
Remain as Inner West Council	Refer to my previous answer about why I voted 'no' to the deamalgamation. There is no case for deamalgamation, it seems that everything would be worse!
Remain as Inner West Council	Refer to previous comments
Remain as Inner West Council	Refer to why i voted for amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	remain as Inner West Council Proposed Fees Structure Cost of living pressures Energy, effort, money, time and other resourced wasted/spent on de-amalagation could be spent on current/future intitiatives by Council for benefit of the community

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Remain as Inner West council to avoid extra time and money wasted.
Remain as Inner West Council	Remaining as inner west council looks to benefit residents more. It also means we can keep the programs already in place and don't need to be spending money to continue initiatives.
Remain as Inner West Council	Remaining as Inner West Council will allow us to focus on issues that really matters. De-amalgamation will either imply additional cost or reduced services and none of those are ideal. Put forward a proposal to improve the Inner West as an alternative. Put together a case to demonstrate that the amalgamated council can perform better and more efficiently. In 2022 this is not the time for division but to work together m. Numbers and consultants have already highlighted the risks and increased cost caused by de-amalgamation and therefore this option should be no longer considered.
Remain as Inner West Council	Retains the best value for the residents Doesn't waste taxpayer money on political and individual agendas
Remain as Inner West Council	ridiculous waste of time and money councils should be larger, as no been created minimise politicisation of local issues, of people with 'power' over local decisions, especially planning completely bewildered by anyone wanting to go back to small councils
Remain as Inner West Council	Risks of de-amalgamation outweigh the benefits The cost to each resident is fa too great The benefits are almost non-existent. What is proposed doesn't provide any real benefit to individuals rather it creates more chaos and disruption The level of disruption the process would cause is far too great
Remain as Inner West Council	Said all I need to say in previous questions
Remain as Inner West Council	same answer as earlier, plus deamalgamation just seems to lead to either lowers services or higher costs
Remain as Inner West Council	Same as before

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Same as before. Big waste of time and money.
Remain as Inner West Council	Same as earlier question. De-amalgamation is inefficient, and will result in higher costs and/or poorer services.
Remain as Inner West Council	Same as earlier responses, de-merger is a huge wast of resources
Remain as Inner West Council	Same as previous answers
Remain as Inner West Council	Same as prior answer. De-amalgation will incur significant cost and divert Council from Service provision. Won't resolve the issue for all the elderly residents who want Balmain Council back!
Remain as Inner West Council	Same reasons
Remain as Inner West Council	Same reasons as before - massive efficiencies have been achieved through the amalgamation and this would undo that and frankly, by the sound of things, make matters worse
Remain as Inner West Council	Same reasons as described previously
Remain as Inner West Council	same reasons as i had originally for amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	Same reasons as noted in prior questions - it doesn't make sense at all to do this
Remain as Inner West Council	Same reasons as previously mentioned
Remain as Inner West Council	Same reasons as previously provided - cost, not conductive to effective community planning and service provision
Remain as Inner West Council	Same reasons I voted no in 2021 Deamalgamation an expensive waste of time
Remain as Inner West Council	Same reasons previously outlined
Remain as Inner West Council	Save costs and efficiencies.
Remain as Inner West Council	Save money
Remain as Inner West Council	Save money and maintain current service level which is great Provide greater consistency in culture across the inner west
Remain as Inner West Council	Save money Maintain consistency

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Save money.
Remain as Inner West Council	Save the money and spend it on facilities, parks, and footpaths or the quality like City of Sydney
Remain as Inner West Council	Save the money on all the business case writing Don't actually support deamalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	Save waste
Remain as Inner West Council	Saves costs Reduces red tape Improves efficiency
Remain as Inner West Council	Scale equals efficiency More time required (10+ yr) to realise further benefit from amalgamation Believe now is better than what is proposed Unnecessary and very expensive de amalgamation cost
Remain as Inner West Council	See above
Remain as Inner West Council	See above
Remain as Inner West Council	See answer above. Never in favour of deamalgamation.
Remain as Inner West Council	See answers to previous questions
Remain as Inner West Council	See earlier answer.
Remain as Inner West Council	See earlier answer. There are no benefits to deamalgamation.
Remain as Inner West Council	See my earlier answer about why I didn't support it last year
Remain as Inner West Council	See my previous answer. Q7 should allow no preference I have been forced to answer preferences I don't have. It a bloody stupid idea to deamalgamate.
Remain as Inner West Council	See my previous comments.
Remain as Inner West Council	See my prior comments herein. Why would anyone pay a substantial increase in rates for de-amalgamation in order to maintain the status quo? The de-amalgamation options are argument enough to keep the current council status. We don't need an innerwexit - just get on with it. Move forwards and not backwards. If the council is not providing prior services then provide them. Even if it requires a change in rates. Especially give

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	the damage caused by the current weather conditions.
Remain as Inner West Council	See previous
Remain as Inner West Council	See previous answer.
Remain as Inner West Council	See previous answer
Remain as Inner West Council	See previous answer
Remain as Inner West Council	See previous answer. Inner West better reflects our community identity with economies of scale. There should be more than three councillors per ward for better grass roots democracy
Remain as Inner West Council	see previous answers
Remain as Inner West Council	see previous answers
Remain as Inner West Council	See previous answers never supported amalgamation. There is a mistake in the previous screen and option c is the same As option a. Remove 'to'
Remain as Inner West Council	See previous comments
Remain as Inner West Council	See previous comments
Remain as Inner West Council	See previous comments re why I did vote against de amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	See previous comments. It makes no sense to reduce service levels and increase costs.
Remain as Inner West Council	See previous reasons
Remain as Inner West Council	See previous reasons given. IWC is a much better Council than the previous Leichhardt Council.
Remain as Inner West Council	See previous response regarding reasons for voting 'No'.
Remain as Inner West Council	See reasons on question 5b.
Remain as Inner West Council	Seems to be working ok at the moment. There are also less developers on the council.
Remain as Inner West Council	Service levels

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Service levels are currently good. The 3 council areas are adjacent, in close proximity & generally aligned. A single, cohesive body is more efficient & can allocate resources more effectively.
Remain as Inner West Council	Service levels have since improved I think there is a way to further improve services Need to see a SROI Social Return on Investment study I now see projects benefitting all areas I.e. cycleways
Remain as Inner West Council	Service was poor prior to amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	Services & representation are fine! Don't need to waste our money
Remain as Inner West Council	Services have improved markedly in the last few years. Non-regular Rubbish removal is a problem, but surely not insurmountable Council staff are generally responsive to questions and reports, which are easy to initiate. I do find the council website clunky to use, especially when trying to log in.
Remain as Inner West Council	Small councils lack power. Powerful councils are better for democracy
Remain as Inner West Council	Small metropolitan Councils are inappropriate for the 21st Century.
Remain as Inner West Council	Smaller fragmented councils plainly lead to extra cost and lower efficiency with any upside vague and illusory eg what is the benefit of supposed " improved local representation "?
Remain as Inner West Council	spend money on services not councilors!
Remain as Inner West Council	Spending 2 million in costs is not worth it The money can better be spent on things that matter
Remain as Inner West Council	Stop wasting any more money with the business case and just get on with looking after the whole area
Remain as Inner West Council	Stop wasting money - accept scale and growth
Remain as Inner West Council	Stop wasting money and playing politics. Get on with being a council.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Stop wasting money on surveys like this. It takes too long and is too expensive to undo the amalgamation. New facilities are better financed and maintained by a larger council like Inner West. Find less expensive and disruptive ways to promote local representation.
Remain as Inner West Council	Stop wasting money reverting changes that have already cost alot of money to implement. Amalgation was brought about to increase efficiency. De-amalgamating just employs more people to the same thing. Bureaucrats benefit at the expense of rate payers. If this goes ahead, we will have a re-amalgamation business case in a few years time.
Remain as Inner West Council	Stop wasting our money on this stupid BS Collect the rubbish and fix the roads Put money into nice parks and ensuring rubbish isn't on the streets Stop employing loads of extra staff. Stop spending money on lefty woke causes. Keep rates at an absolute minimum level.
Remain as Inner West Council	Stop wasting our money. I'm writing to recommend the minister to sack this council and put a administrator in charge asap
Remain as Inner West Council	Stop wasting out money!
Remain as Inner West Council	Stop wasting time on this political garbage and focus on your actual jobs as councilllers
Remain as Inner West Council	Stupid to amalgamate and then deamalgamate Have received no data from council on why deamamalgamation is being considered,what evidence do you have for the need for deamalagamation If deamalgamation and returning to past is simply a perception of some residents then information and education program is what is needed. pro Since one of the proposals for deamalgamation is more councillors I suspect deamalgamation is being put forward as in the interests of councillors

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Submitting the business case is a waste of time and money. The non-binding poll was a single question and didn't have any of the context now provided. There is not a single benefit that has been outlined other than 'perceived' service and 'self-determination'. These buzz words don't actually add up to any material benefit and the costs would disadvantage the people of the IWC area when the cost of living is already rising This feels like a grudge campaign and even the consultants you've hired have told you it's a bad idea. Listen to the experts, listen to the residents, get back to running the Inner West as one Council.
Remain as Inner West Council	Superior administration when amalgamated
Remain as Inner West Council	Support current system
Remain as Inner West Council	Terrible idea
Remain as Inner West Council	That's how I've always felt
Remain as Inner West Council	The amalgamation has been more successful that the previous model.
Remain as Inner West Council	The amalgamation has given us better services Amalgamation cost us time and money, undoing it will not improve anything and add more costs
Remain as Inner West Council	The area covered by Inner West Council IS my community of interest. I was raised in Marrickville Council, and went to school in Leichhardt Council. I don't know anyone whose whole lifestyle is confined to just one area of the former Councils - it is important to me that I have a say over council services not just in the area which I live, but in the wider community where I work, study, and enjoy recreation.
Remain as Inner West Council	The arguments to deamalgamate are largely based on myths about "better representation", "greater local cohesion", and so on. There are no obvious reasons to upend the whole system and pick it apart. More mayors and councillors will never translate into better roads and footpaths, and why move away from an existing management structure that is working to the old style where more managers and greater costs ensue.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	The benefits of deamalgamation appear to be minimal and the cost is high
Remain as Inner West Council	The benefits of remaining Inner West far outweigh the costs I identify as “Inner West” The additional costs required to maintain service levels under option A and B is not desirable, and less services is not desirable If you proceed, please keep some services operating together eg libraries. My children greatly benefit from being able to reserve books at another library and then being transferred to our local library
Remain as Inner West Council	The business case confirms that it will be costly and disruptive Benefits are vague and ambiguous No certainty that the perceived benefits will actually be delivered Waste of IWC time, money and resource in pushing the business case Prefer money being spent of improving IWC services and infrastructure
Remain as Inner West Council	The business case demonstrates there is no clear benefit Just get on with it
Remain as Inner West Council	The business case for de-amalgamation has not been made on any measurable metric. Households are already feeling the strain due to inflation, interest rate rises. Adding increased rates simply to fulfill a vanity project for some elderly residents is not in the community's interst.
Remain as Inner West Council	The business case is framed as uncertain - it "may" bring about improved services. It's not certain that it will improve services and in the transitional period there will be a decline in services and afterwards some smaller council areas (i.e the former Ashfield) will be worse off The financials risks and obvious increase in expenditure to de-amalgamate far outweigh the possible benefits.
Remain as Inner West Council	The business case is not compelling. Time and money should be spent on other council plans and projects
Remain as Inner West Council	The business case is very weak on case for change and cost benefit The cost of change clearly outways the “unquantifiable benefits” The human

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	cost of the change on staff and customers is unacceptable
Remain as Inner West Council	The combined council appears to be performing at least as well as the previous Leichhardt council
Remain as Inner West Council	The complexity of untangling the councils for a political point just isn't worth it.
Remain as Inner West Council	The cost benefit is best to remain as Inner West Council Inner West Council has only 5 councillors when the 3 individual councils will have 12 councillors each (total 36) Services Ave been upgraded
Remain as Inner West Council	The cost incurred to deamaglamate is higher then the cost of keeping the IWC as is, as long as the council does its job it does not matter what it calls itself
Remain as Inner West Council	The cost involved to de amalgamate would be extraordinary for most independent Counci's l's as many staff we The reemployment of staff retrenched by Inner West Council upon amalgamation Ashfield Council was running at a loss prior to the amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	The cost is too much Our service levels will drop So much work to unify has been made already
Remain as Inner West Council	the cost of deamalgamating far outweigh the benefits I see value in IWC current service provision, which I fear would be reduced with deamalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	The cost of de-amalgamation far outweighs the perceived benefits, to the point where it doesn’t even make sense to do so. It’s not worth the effort, time, and cost to de-amalgamate just to have more autonomy for each council. Loss of synergies and economies of scale when de-amalgamated. Residents will have to put up with greater inefficiencies, reduced service levels during and after de-amalgamation.
Remain as Inner West Council	The cost of de-amalgation is not worth any possible benefitsw

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	The cost of going back now will impact on ratepayers
Remain as Inner West Council	The cost of this folly
Remain as Inner West Council	The cost to deamalgamate is not worth it.
Remain as Inner West Council	The cost to de-amalgamete is excessive Why undo the last 6 years of hard work to merge into the one council
Remain as Inner West Council	The cost to rate payers whilst every other cost of living is going up is not worth it.
Remain as Inner West Council	The cost to residents of reconstituting the three old LGAs will be significant. Further restructuring will also take a toll on council staff.
Remain as Inner West Council	The costs and benefits of deamalgamation don't seem justified, particularly given the other post-2021 issues councils are now facing (rising costs, staff shortages, etc). Also the loss of skills and continuity presents a material risk for ongoing provision of local services. That said, some IWC changes eg stopping the periodic household waste clean ups and moving to booked collections have had a negative impact on the community and the local environment. But that alone is not a reason to deamalgamate.
Remain as Inner West Council	The costs are clear but the risks are hazy and the benefits are nebulous. "Perceived service level improvements", what bollocks!
Remain as Inner West Council	The costs are high for no clear benefit. Amalgamating was undemocratic, but the inner west is a logical community to have represented by a single council
Remain as Inner West Council	The costs clearly outweigh the benefits. We have better services now for less. Benefits are limited and subjective. Costs are tangible and impacting ratepayers at a difficult time It's debatable how differentiated the conduit areas are so claiming better community alignment as a benefit is marginal at best. Council should focus on the best quality services at the best price not perceived

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	marginal differentiation between suburbs Services are currently good and fair
Remain as Inner West Council	the costs to deamalgamate would be huge and unnecessasry , amalgamation has greatly improved the facilities in my suburb
Remain as Inner West Council	The council has wasted enough time and money on this, just get on and do the job please
Remain as Inner West Council	The council is wasting money on this project. The public gets better service for lower rates under the current council.
Remain as Inner West Council	The council now is forward looking and innovative, our services and its communication have improved vastly. You get better representation with a bigger, better pool of candidates to draw on. Adopting technology, providing environmental services, better communications, all costs! And needs will increase with increasing population The benefits from economies of scale will be lost. De-amalgamating the library services would be a tragedy and stupid.
Remain as Inner West Council	The Councils are now fully merged. From my perspective, a genuine success. I hardly noticed the transformation, however, on-the-ground service levels, customer respect and response have all noticeably improved.
Remain as Inner West Council	The current council is doing a great job
Remain as Inner West Council	The current level of services can’t be feasibly maintained after de-amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	The current service levels are great. I feel like I benefit from the amalgamation. It’s makes economical sense. I’m happy with the overall direction in which the Inner West is going.
Remain as Inner West Council	The current situation works for us
Remain as Inner West Council	The damage is done and it's too late now. The rate hikes are such BS- why didn't Rates go down when

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	you amalgamated If smaller councils are so expensive?
Remain as Inner West Council	The deamalgamation will be substantially costly including the preparation of the business case. It is unlikely to be approved by the Minister. Do not support the deamalgamation generally.
Remain as Inner West Council	The December 2021 decision by residents was 63% voted to de-amalgamate and local government be restored. Your survey is revisiting a decision already finalised by voters- de-amalgamate. Another survey is wasting time and money with the Council's hope by focussing on the "hip pocket nerve" that voters will change their mind. Appalling, it is a sharp practice, open to manipulation by council, a betrayal of faith in the electoral process and provides no guarantee that the council will not again revisit the question if they fail to get the result they are seeking. It has been decided by the voters/residents that Council fulfill their commitment that they voted on - de-amalgamate and propose to the Minister for Local Government that the de-amalgamation go ahead. I put on the record that the Council needs to commit to the original ratepayers decision and go the the Minister of Local Government with that proposal and not revisit a decision already been made by its ratepayers.
Remain as Inner West Council	The efficiencies and economies of scale are too good. We just need a greater number of councillors.
Remain as Inner West Council	The excessive cost to de-amalgamate is regressive for everyone within the Inner West Council. That money can be used to improve things that have been flagged as deficient as a result of amalgamation; it's better to improve what we already have rather than changing things just so we can have three councils again. The excessive cost to de-amalgamate is wasteful to all rate payers in the Inner West Council and does more collective harm than good in terms of the services that would either need to be reduced or taken away from those areas. Since amalgamation of the three councils, I have noticed a significant

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	improvement in the area that I live in. Things have improved significantly and I attritbute that to the equitable redistribution of services amongst all three councils. I use to live in the Marrickville Council area and felt that there were plenty of services for rate payers. When I moved to the Ashfield Council area I noticed a significant difference between the two councils. This is certainly attributed to Marrickville Council's larger catch
Remain as Inner West Council	The expense and change of services.
Remain as Inner West Council	The financials make 0 sense. IWC is doing a great job, the counsellors are fantastic and the reasons for de-amalgamation seem ludicrous and vague.
Remain as Inner West Council	The focus should be on maintaining or improving services to the community within the existing structure instead of creating additional administration at huge cost to residents
Remain as Inner West Council	The hardest task has been to amalgamate the 3 Councils and implement changes, don't revert to small group whims and desire to resist change. I don't want to see rate increases which can be avoided.
Remain as Inner West Council	The information provided in the draft business case only strengthens my preference. De-amalgamation would be costly and reduce the services we are now receiving from Inner West Council.
Remain as Inner West Council	The inner west benefits from having a unified council in negotiating on state matters. Amalgamation was unfortunate, but deamalgamation would bring little tangible benefit to residents, but introduce significant risk to service delivery.
Remain as Inner West Council	The Inner West Council has been operating for several years and has set up processes and services. As these seem to be working well, to me, leave things as they are. Setting up new services, processes and possibly recruiting new staff would

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	add further costs. The Council, from my point of view, appears settled and working well. Of course 'tweaking' to improve is certainly to be expected.
Remain as Inner West Council	The Inner West council has provided better services services than the Ashfield council did
Remain as Inner West Council	The Inner West Council have provided us with a much stronger voice and the service levels and improvements to infrastructure have been outstanding
Remain as Inner West Council	The inner West council makes sense as a community Deamalgamation is a waste of money There are no natural borders between the old councils Border areas could be neglected and redundant services needed in deamalgamation Deamalgation gives NIMBYs more opportunity to stonewall development
Remain as Inner West Council	The Inner West council represents diverse people and areas. Since moving to the area I have been nothing but happy with the service provided.
Remain as Inner West Council	The IWC should not waste any more money or resources on this process, which has already costed presumably thousands of dollars. Community interests do not vastly differ form suburb to suburb and the council is diverse enough to be able represent all view points. The minister has no political motivation to grant this deamalgamation, stop wasting peoples money with this process. The parties responsible for deamalgation should be responsible for funding this process, not the rate payers. So much money has already been spent on amalgamation eg logos, signage, administration. This would go to waste if the IWC were to deamalgamate.
Remain as Inner West Council	The lobby in favour of de-amalgamation need to prove that council management, services and financial situation will be improved under their plan. Open- minded thinking needs to take place in this matter.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	The main case against amalgamation was the cost of the change. The same will occur in reverse- extra costs in de-amalgamation, just so a few people can feel better 'represented'. This does not help the residents overall who want services to function well but without rate rises. I believe that's what most people want - more service, less cost.
Remain as Inner West Council	The merged inner west council is fine - we shouldn't have to pay more for reduced services
Remain as Inner West Council	The money is spent don't waste any more
Remain as Inner West Council	The only outcome will be an excuse to increase my rates. This is obvious and indeed stated in your "business case". Since the merger in May 2016, my rates increased 56.1% and 105.9% in the 12 years I have owned my property. This has come with no "improved efficiencies or services" at any time before or after merger and despite the public declarations of "rate harmonisation benefits" expected to have manifested last year due to the merger. Any impetus claimed for the 'de-merger' is invalid. The question added, out of the blue, to the council election in Dec 2021 had no accompanying statements or prior discussion as to the impact on costs for ratepayers. The insertion of the question at that time and in that manner was a blatant attempt to achieve the outcome suiting certain lobby groups and nothing more. Unless the promise is reduce rates from day 1 of a "de-merger", there is no tangible benefit to de-merger. Whatever is driver for this suggestion seems to outside any economic rationale. The demerger is totally tone deaf to current ecomonic circumstances forcing up cost of living for people. Astounding arrogance.
Remain as Inner West Council	The only reason the de-amalgamation agenda has been raised is because disgruntled former councillors want there jobs back
Remain as Inner West Council	The present Council is doing a good job

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	The previous Councils were too small and lacked economy of scale. Ashfield Council was a small petty council with self interested Councilors...
Remain as Inner West Council	The proposed de-amalgamation increases costs on residents and / or reduces service levels. This is madness. Inner West Council is performing better than the old Leichhardt council.
Remain as Inner West Council	The reasons I've previously listed above. The current IWC is working perfectly, with a reduced budget. The only reason to push for a change is to create more cushy jobs at higher salaries for councilors. You even said it yourself on the previous page, the current council has been operating at the same quality for less money, and you're saying that's an issue we need to resolve? Nonsense This entire operation seems to be borderline corruption, with politicians campaigning aggressively more more and higher paying jobs. Get a 3rd party in to review the business case and save us all some time and money.
Remain as Inner West Council	The red tape (and therefore costs) of maintaining 3 councils are ludicrous
Remain as Inner West Council	The ROI is very marginal Increase in cost does not provide the residents with major benifits Maintaining current service is important. Why would I pay more for the same thing? No reason for this at all
Remain as Inner West Council	The service, communication, priorities and achievements of the Inner West Council are far superior to those of the previous Ashfield council Financially it makes no sense to de-amalgamate, both for short term costs and ongoing costs Continual changes to council structures are de-motivating for staff and confusing for residents It makes no sense to have so many councilors across multiple councils - a waste of resources Standardising processes, facilities and services across the Inner West is more equitable and resources can be directed where they are most needed

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	The services of the former Leichhardt and Marrickville Council (I have had extensive experience with both) were less than any reasonably acceptable standard.
Remain as Inner West Council	The services of the former Leichhardt and Marrickville councils (I have had extensive experience of both) were less than any reasonably acceptable standard
Remain as Inner West Council	The services provided by the INner West Council are and have been good. I do not want to pay more rates for what I envisage will be a poorer service level if de-amalgamation proceeds. I would to see fewer Councillors. I do not want to pay increased rates forever.
Remain as Inner West Council	The stated benefits of de-amalgamation amount to nothing. In fact they could all be considered backward steps: Reduced efficiency, more bloat, dupication and higher cost. There is NO business case. By the council's own figures (as untrustworthy as they are) it will cost each ratepayer a lot and for what - more councilors is all tey have to offer. In fact, it's about time we start to see more of the advantages of Amalgamation not De-amalgamation starting with the termination of this total waste of time. The council clearly doesn't understand its role. Climate change! What? But most of all, I do not trust the figures or the projections in the draft De-amalgamation Busines Case. I want to see the NO case in detail. I want a better accounting of the projected spending - the rent-seeking, the swimming pool gymnasium, the footpath maintenance, ... everything. Not this feel-goodery junk that Darcy and his minions push out from time to time.
Remain as Inner West Council	The superior choice
Remain as Inner West Council	The whole exercise is a waste of time and money
Remain as Inner West Council	The whole thing is a massive waste of money
Remain as Inner West Council	The world does NOT need more councillors.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	There are more important outcomes for council to be focused on Respects the value of me as a paying council rate payer vs renter
Remain as Inner West Council	There are more important things our public servants should be focused on
Remain as Inner West Council	There are more important things to prioritise such as climate action, community services,
Remain as Inner West Council	there are probably more important problems to be addressed
Remain as Inner West Council	There are still benefits to harness in the amalgamated council, although community voices should be improved
Remain as Inner West Council	There aren't enough people capable of being good councillors available to represent the three LGA's and do a good job. Council benefits from having a combined team of relatively capable staff working together, as opposed to spreading them more thinly over three councils where their expertise remains in one and is lost to the two. There is a more consistent approach to service provision. There is a more consistent approach to planning and development. There is the potential to do a really good things across the larger amalgamated LGA now that we are used to living with Covid and that council operations have been harmonised. ie we have done all of the hard work and now we are really only just getting started on what is possible.
Remain as Inner West Council	There does not appear to be any major benefit from de-amalgamation. The Inner West makes sense as a single LGA
Remain as Inner West Council	there has been enough angst
Remain as Inner West Council	There has been enough council rate money spent on this issue already. I can't see any benefits to de-amalgamation - either financially or service level wise
Remain as Inner West Council	There is a financial cost associated with deamalgamating. But I see not articulated benefit
Remain as Inner West Council	There is leterally no benefit to this de-amalgamation. If people had realised it would cost

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	them extra to have a worse council service they would noy have voted for this. Paying more for less is nonsensical
Remain as Inner West Council	There is no actual benefit to the residents arising from the costs. The proposal is myopic and serves political aspirations. We don't need more councillors to clean the streets, improve the playgrounds and assess development. Increased rates would be better spent on parks, childcare and social programs. Question 7 was unfair and didn't give an option to reject the proposal now that costs are known.
Remain as Inner West Council	There is no benefit for residents for council to de-amalgamate The council should be looking forward to progress and not backwards There has been no personal complaint in the manner in which IWC has conducted business since amalgamation IWC wants deamalgamation to justify more councilor jobs - self interest!
Remain as Inner West Council	There is no benefit in going back to the 3 separate councils that would justify the enormous financial costs, one-off and ongoing. It would also be a disgraceful and cynical waste of what has already been spent in the process of merging the 3 councils. In addition, IWC is overall providing us with good service.
Remain as Inner West Council	There is no benefit to de-amalgamation We still pay for the de-amalgamation either through rates or state taxes I feel its irresponsible
Remain as Inner West Council	There is no benefit to me as a rate payer in increasing costs (particularly in the current economic environment) or wasting money on more political positions. High risk of corruption with more politicians
Remain as Inner West Council	There is no benefit to splitting, only increased costs or reduced services. The three cases put up in this survey all says that. Splitting allows those who want to boss people around the opportunity to get their way on a smaller council. They are not there to serve the community, but to big note themselves.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	There is no clear driver for change. I think council is operating more efficiently than before amalgamation.
Remain as Inner West Council	There is no clear/demonstrative benefit to de-amalgamtion other than we will have more representation. The past year of amalgamation have shown that service levels can be increased with the level of representation currently received.
Remain as Inner West Council	There is no need for de-amalgamation. The old NIMBYs who don't like change will be gone soon enough, there is no need to pander to them.
Remain as Inner West Council	There is no possible benefit other than to local factional leaders who have had political influence reduced. Residents should not be forced to fund a vocal minorities return to influence.
Remain as Inner West Council	There is no reason other than pursuing a grievance for de-amalgamation. This is throwing away public money for absolutely no gain. The amalgamation happened. Whether it was right or wrong at the time is no longer relevant. There is no real problem with the current Inner West Council. Public money should not be spent on solving a problem that does not exist.
Remain as Inner West Council	There is no reason to waste money to go through all these processes again, in the end still paying more for rates. Inner west council is performing well and adds a good feeling to the residents as living close to the city.
Remain as Inner West Council	There is no strong case for de-amalgamation. Obvious risks clearly outweigh "potential" benefits.
Remain as Inner West Council	There is no value in deamalgamatio
Remain as Inner West Council	There is not sufficient benefit
Remain as Inner West Council	there is nothing to be gained by de amalgamation. As far as I can see it is motivated by irrational parochialism. We may as well go back to separate councils for Petersham and Annandale.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	Government by referendum delivers Brexit and that is what this is.
Remain as Inner West Council	There was a big cost involved with amalgamation in 2016. De-amalgamation will result in a huge cost I don't think the people who voted for de-amalgamation understood that rates will increase significantly as the first result of de-amalgamation resu There has been a lot of projects resulting in improvements made in Leichhardt, Marrickville & Ashfield since 2016 which is great but we are unlikely to see any significant improvements if money is spent on de-amalgamation for at least 3yrs. Only 80.7% of residents voted in the December 2021 poll.Had more people known that de-amalgamation would result in significantly increased rates, they may have voted against de-amalgamationthe result It was possibly the older, less educated long term residents in the innerwest council area who long for the old days & don't like change, who voted for de-amalgamation not understanding the huge costs involved in the process of de-amalgamation & while I'm not young & have only lived here for 9.5yrs, I am aware of some of the costs involved in the amalgamation & thus, the costs involved in de-amalgamation! I worked one day a week for a couple of years in an office in Annandale Community Centre
Remain as Inner West Council	There was no-one actively promoting the 'no' argument during the referendum, the only information for the no position was buried in a council newsletter. De-amalgamation has no clear benefits, it is a retrograde step and will return us to a whole lot of big fish in small ponds. It's the Inner West version of Brexit.
Remain as Inner West Council	There wil be a financial disadvantage. It's not fair on Council staff. There is no benefit of any consequence - the ssupposed more direct local representation would in actuality not amount to any material change.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	There's additional cost and not real benefit Frankly the only people to benefit are counsellors by increasing their jobs
Remain as Inner West Council	Things are going ok with the amalgamated Inner West Council Services and events are pretty good under the amalgamated model
Remain as Inner West Council	Things are working fine since amalgamation, why go backwards now
Remain as Inner West Council	Things work fine
Remain as Inner West Council	This business case and demerger is an appalling waste of time and money. The greenie lunatics pushing this should focus on getting council to deliver instead of making more politicians. This is not a student council.
Remain as Inner West Council	This de amalgamation exercise has been a debacle. Let it stay as is to keep the bastards honest.
Remain as Inner West Council	This is a complete waste of money
Remain as Inner West Council	This is a complete waste of resouces, the change to amalgamate has been positive please maintain.
Remain as Inner West Council	This is a complete waste of time, effort and money. There are much more important priorities - rejuvenate our retail, fix all the potholes, collect the garbage
Remain as Inner West Council	This is a small geogrtaphic area and Inner West Council is responsive to residents' requests. I see no reason to change and thus inclrease costs.
Remain as Inner West Council	This is a WASTE of time and money
Remain as Inner West Council	This is all a waste of money
Remain as Inner West Council	This is an ego trip by councillors The people were not given a vote to improve the amalgamated council It is too soon to change
Remain as Inner West Council	This is fixing a problem that doesn’t exist
Remain as Inner West Council	This is just a waste of ratepayers money, there has already been a fortune spent to amalgamate the Councils and now we are looking at spending another fortune for no benefit to the ratepayers.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	There will be a whole pile of Consultants & advisers who will be remunerated but the ratepayer will get nothing out of it.
Remain as Inner West Council	This is push pollling Return Newtown to one council
Remain as Inner West Council	This would be a wasteful and retrograde step
Remain as Inner West Council	Time and money wastage in de-amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	time for residents to start looking ahead to future opportunities,
Remain as Inner West Council	To avoid additional cost
Remain as Inner West Council	To limit corruption To increase value for money
Remain as Inner West Council	To reduce costs.
Remain as Inner West Council	Too costly for no added benefit. I think people voted to demerge without understanding the implications. Sydney is a very tribal city, I think people voted to demerge to get their “tribe” back.
Remain as Inner West Council	Too costly to return to previous arrangement Loss of efficiency gains from amalgamation Increased potential for corruption due to increased number of councillors Less influence over State Inability to strategically plan economically
Remain as Inner West Council	Too expensive and I don't want to see a reduction in services to make up for the cost. Please bear in mind that there are a lot of young families paying huge mortgages and dealing with rising inflation right now. I think the views of residents who will be paying rates for decades and who are enjoying the benefits of improved services should be given a lot of weight.
Remain as Inner West Council	Too expensive and time consuming to de amalgamate
Remain as Inner West Council	Too expensive for rate payers which will also flow through to renters. If it isn't broken, why fix it? Just oil the squeaky wheels with a new park or something.
Remain as Inner West Council	Too expensive It seems to be working okay

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Too expensive to deamalgamafe. Money better used on services
Remain as Inner West Council	Too expensive to de-amalgamated No guarantee that it will be better
Remain as Inner West Council	Too expensive with no clear gain
Remain as Inner West Council	Too much money to deamalgamate, just get on with things.
Remain as Inner West Council	Too much time has past since amalgamation and this can't be undobe without significant cost and liss if service. You can't replace tge staff and their knowledge that was loss during amalgamation.
Remain as Inner West Council	Unclear benefit Risks of project Costs, ongoing and oneoff
Remain as Inner West Council	Unless the council regains self- determination, there is no reason to de-amalgamate
Remain as Inner West Council	Unnecessary Cost Fragmentation Excessive cost of increasing staff levels across all councils in the case of de-amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	Use the money needed for De-amalgamation to improve Services Stop wasting money!
Remain as Inner West Council	Very satisfied with local representation, service levels and programs of work achieved by Inner West Council. I see no benefit and considerable costs associated with deamalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	Want less government Cheaper rates More accountability Less fiefdom creating Less politics
Remain as Inner West Council	Want same level of service and not pay more Don't need more councillors!
Remain as Inner West Council	Want to maintain the current service level with no additional cost The fact that council will have a surplus proves the amalgamation worked Increased representation is not important for me and a waste of money
Remain as Inner West Council	Waste of time and resources for no benefit
Remain as Inner West Council	Waste of money
Remain as Inner West Council	Waste of money

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Waste of money and resources Economies of scale
Remain as Inner West Council	Waste of money and resources to achieve a worse outcome. Costs involved using taxpayer $$
Remain as Inner West Council	Waste of money for no discernible benefit
Remain as Inner West Council	Waste of money No clear benefit Too many councillors Let's move forwards not backwards
Remain as Inner West Council	Waste of money to change
Remain as Inner West Council	Waste of money to de amalgamate and ongoing addition costs and higer rates for ratepayers for no guaranteed significant benefits, we do not need more councillors, we do not need higher rates, council needs to find mire efficiencies. Everone is under increasing cost of livinng pressures, we not need to impose most cost on families just to satisfy some politcial agenda.
Remain as Inner West Council	Waste of money to deamalgamate Economies of scale reduced Capacity for planning for the inner west reduced and will return to hodge podge of initiatives like incomplete cycle paths whereas a big council can plan for better infrastructure Enjoy accessing council services such as libraries across the network Do not see the benefit of smaller councils when services can be cheaper and more efficient as a larger council
Remain as Inner West Council	Waste of money to de-amalgamate There is no business case to de-amalgamate The money has already been spent on amalgamation, there is no clear benefit. Rates would not recover Services would be worse for suburbs and communities split by arbitrary council boundaries
Remain as Inner West Council	Waste of money to deamalgante Hopefully costs savings from amalgamation will start to flow through.
Remain as Inner West Council	Waste of money to submit a business case
Remain as Inner West Council	Waste of money to submit a business case.
Remain as Inner West Council	waste of money what's done is done

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Waste of rate payers money. No valid need to de-amalgamate.
Remain as Inner West Council	Waste of resources in changing No valid reason to change
Remain as Inner West Council	Waste of resources. Please focus on the future rather than the past - the past was three poor performing Councils. Who are these idiots glorifying the past incompetence, poor performance, lack of financial capability? The IWC offers an opportunity to build a high-performing, financially sound Council. Please focus on the future.
Remain as Inner West Council	Waste of time and effort Increased cost Reduction in services
Remain as Inner West Council	Waste of time and money
Remain as Inner West Council	Waste of time and money to deamalgamate I think status quo (staying as one council) is providing a good level of service Deamalgamating would either increase rates or decrease service provision, neither of which is a good outcome
Remain as Inner West Council	Waste of time and resources The State Govt is unlikely to approve the de-amalgamation IWC should get on with efficiently serving the residents of the current Council area The de-amalgated model would take another 5+ years to bed down The redundancy costs of de-amalgamation on top of what has already been paid out to amalgamate the councils is a complete waste of monies. How much has been forked out to general mangers to restructure.
Remain as Inner West Council	Waste of time, money & resources
Remain as Inner West Council	Waste of time, money and resources
Remain as Inner West Council	Wasteful to deamalgamate
Remain as Inner West Council	Watste of money. Don't trust motivation behind it. Annoyed at last question and lack of info.
Remain as Inner West Council	Way more benefits to stay amalgamated Greater services as a bigger council

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	We are in a cost of living crisis, and it is clear from the independent business case that the net present value of deamalgamation is negative. Households do not need another cost increase on top of everything else The business case argues that because people had access to information about the potential costs and implications of deamalgamation, and still voted for it, that that must mean the non financial benefits are significant. I think that is a gross overestimation of what people might have thought, as this information would have only been readily accessed by those most engaged with the issue. I was semi-engaged with the debate at the time and did not see anything resembling detailed costing of deamalgation before the I am a migrant to Australia and the Inner West area and have had no experience with the previous unamalgamated councils now forming the IWC. I have only had positive interactions with the Inner West Council and could not imagine that deamalgamating would provide better services on top of what has been provided by the IWC. I was relatively on the fence about the deamalgamation vote, and initially only slightly preferred not to deamalgamate because of my positive dealings with IWC. However, after reading the business case, I now feel very strongly about this issue. It is clear there is no real reason to deamalgamate. It would not make ratepayers better off. It is nothing more a distraction from other more important issues facing Council and our society... and an expensive one at that!
Remain as Inner West Council	We are too far down the track of combined councils Its a waste of money
Remain as Inner West Council	We are well served by the Inner West Council and don’t need to change just because we can.
Remain as Inner West Council	We certainly do not need more cost and duplication 3 lots of equipment more cost De-amalgamation would be a backward step,for less services I have been here 40 years and better services since amalgamation

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	We don’t need 3 councils Waste of money overturning the previous amalgamation
Remain as Inner West Council	We don’t need more councillors per head of population Inner West Council delivers good services in its present form
Remain as Inner West Council	We don't need this sort of pointless theatre, we need council to get on with the job of effecting a mode share shift away from cars.
Remain as Inner West Council	We end up paying more for less anyway you look at it.
Remain as Inner West Council	We finally have a plan and a budget to move forward, protect the community and Continue to develop infrastructure that supports community expectations
Remain as Inner West Council	We have been impressed with the current services provided and see no reason to de-amalgamate
Remain as Inner West Council	We have good service now! Why change it
Remain as Inner West Council	We just amalgamated!
Remain as Inner West Council	We know the costs and those who want deamalgamation will not listen to the evidence. Deamalgamation is a waste of time and energy
Remain as Inner West Council	We need to make amalgamation work
Remain as Inner West Council	We need to move on and stop wasting money
Remain as Inner West Council	We’ve already been through years of chaos because of the forced amalgamation The costs of restructuring have been great and money is wasted on further changes The current economic situation is uncertain and added financial costs cause hardship Better to spend de-amalgamation money on improving existing planning and services
Remain as Inner West Council	What is broken? It has to be more efficient as it is
Remain as Inner West Council	What is done is done. Don’t waste any more time and money on this and focus attention on making the Inner West Council a great place to live.
Remain as Inner West Council	What is the benefit offered by deamalgamation?

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Remain as Inner West Council	Whatever is cheaper and most efficient to uphold values and keep costs down
Remain as Inner West Council	What's done is done
Remain as Inner West Council	While I didn't support amalgamation, now that the process has been completed I don't think that the costs of de-amalgamation are warranted.
Remain as Inner West Council	While I saw it was a bit messy at first when it happened, I think the council now is doing great things for us Why would we now want more disruption and additional costs for us each year
Remain as Inner West Council	Why in the current cost of living environment increase place more costs onto people when this not serving anybody apart from more people who want to become politicians via local councils
Remain as Inner West Council	Why not
Remain as Inner West Council	Why pay more for the same or worse services? The whole process is being driven by local empire builders rather than genuine concern for the citizens of the area.
Remain as Inner West Council	Why should we pay more money to create 2 extra HR and IT departments? Why should we pay more money for more counsillors? Why should we pay more money for no increase in services? Why should we pay more money to construct 2 new council headquarters?
Remain as Inner West Council	Why split up the council to deliver the same or lesser service at a higher cost. It makes no sense. The purpose of electing councillors is so they can represent the people in their electorate. 62.5% may have voted in favour but this is only 50.4% of the “voting base”. It doesn’t make sense that IWC is even spending money on the feasibilities consider there isn’t even an overwhelming majority, currently the opinion to seems to be more or less a toin coss.
Remain as Inner West Council	Why the need to change. As stated previously, there are far too many Councils in Sydney and we need to reduce what has become merely a stepping stone for Councillors to get to

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	Mascquarie Street with little or no interest in the area they supposedly represent.
Remain as Inner West Council	Working well as is. Prefer to be part of large efficient council.
Remain as Inner West Council	Works well as is
Remain as Inner West Council	Works well as is.
Remain as Inner West Council	Works well now, apart from increased costs can't see any benefits
Remain as Inner West Council	Would prefer not to increase rates as much. Have been happy with iwc
Remain as Inner West Council	You have done research and it shows that this would lead to financially instability, no one should ever proceed if that's the projection The council rate increases to families after people are going to receive rate increases everywhere else is just not economically good for families It's better for our communities future for growth and accessibility for us to remain as one council
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	1. I believe that small government is, generally, better than larger government. 2. I believe that the benefits for amalgamation were little more than wishful thinking.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	1. I support the majority opinion of all residents of all the old councils, reflected so strongly in the poll. 2. The current council is being disingenuous in preparing its 'business case' for deamalgamation, including in manner in which it has framed and presented this survey. 3. Rather than attempting to manipulate residents, the Council should be properly analysing WHY the vote was so strong, and HOW honestly to implement the opinion of the majority.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	A believe a smaller local government worked better all round

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	A clear majority 62.5% in a poll with an 80.7% turnout voted for deamalgamation (=77.4% of those who voted voted for deamalgamation?). Why now ask us again? Are you rather hoping that very few of the 62.5% residents will respond to your follow up survey and therefore discount the deamalgamation vote? The majority vote is what it is. Best face facts. The amalgamation has proved a failed experiment. Residents have now had a lengthy time to assess their satisfaction with the IWC in meeting their needs, compared to their previous experience with a smaller scale, more immediate, accountable to residents Council.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	A democratic plebiscite occurred with 63% of residents waning de-amalgamation. Listen to the people. Nothing in the survey mentions the financial and mismanagement costs arising from the original amalgamation decision by the LNP State Government. The service level differences between option 1 and 2 are not perceptible. Prove to the rate payers improvements have actually been delivered.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	A group of smaller councils
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	A majority of residents have voted in favour of de-amalgamation.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	A majority of residents voted to de-amalgamate its sounding like the case to amalgamate-no council forced to do it, its up to what the residents want well now the majority of residents want to de-amalgamate.....so submit a business case The premise of amalgamation was to make councils more cost efficient So how can de-amalgamation result in job losses????
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	A sustainable and in touch council is essential. Waste collection and cleaner streets are important Parks and environmental maintenance is important
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	All the alleged costs of de-amalgamation are due to the restructures due to a forced amalgamation! State govt should pay for de -amalgamation as

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	they caused all the cost and disruption! Local government should be truly local
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	All the reasons I voted to deamalg in the first place still hld Business case seems very imprecise and I believe smaller councils better able to operate nimbly and service local needs Too much overlap between NSW Govt and Inner West Govt - better for local representation/council to be just that I believe it would help to depoliticise council and return back to a focus on dealing with local issues No amalgamation of councils has delivered the promised fiscal or service benefits. Smaller council model much more empirically proven
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Along with a majority of residents I voted in favour of de-amalgamation, clealy that intention still stands. The business cases, and the documentation supplied by IWC, are clearly biased towards IWC remaining.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Already outlined on previous page IWC experiment has not worked 63% of voters support de-amalgamation
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Amalgamation has failed in being cost efficient and in providing better services Someone should be held accountable for this disastrous situation
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Amalgamation has failed to serve its purpose Merger was politically motivated by liberal government Service levels obviously worse after merger Residents want MARRICKVILLE back to how it was pre merger Merger must have been hard on staff
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	amalgamation has provided some better services I want to de-almagmate but retain services

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Amalgamation has taken away community particpation in our local area, this participation created social capital whihc is the glue that holds societies together & we have lost this. An on-line survey does not do this at all The argument made in this so called business case assumes 'services' have improved. Of course we have a better library in Marrickville & a new Acquatic Centre in Ashfield, & some renewed other facilties, & of course these cannot & shoud not be taken away. We cannot undo improvements made. The choices in this survey of A,B &C are made on assumptions that are not valid. I consider services to include not just provision of community facilties, parks, roads, waste & environment etc but to improve & build the social capital of the municipality by enabling residents to have active participation in all policy development and in facilites management where they are for the general use of residents and need reflect community social & recreational needs. I consider we have had a BIG reduction in this type of service services As a resident in the old Leichhardt Council area I have seen no improvement in services generally - the great Waste Management & Gargbage programs have continued & any expansion would have occcurred regardless, also increse in sustainability programs, the parks are in a much poorer condition than they were previously.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Amalgamation was a bad idea to start with. It was heavily opposed but it still happened anyway. Some people are making serious money with amalgamation then now deamalgamation You should be ashamed of yourselves wasting money by changing processes unnecessarily
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Amalgamation was forced on Residents.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Amalgamation was supposed to make the three Councils cheaper and more efficient, but it all went downhill and has never been in the black since the start.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	As a democracy we functioned better as local issues better addressed by council and better representation on issues through councillors. Each council area prev had its own character and issues and residents better served by staff as knew suburbs and needs
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	As already explained
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	As before
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	aS i FELT THAT THE PREVIOUS LEICHHARDT COUNCIL PROVIDED MUCH BETTER SERVICE LEVELS
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	As I said in my previous written response, I feel that Inner West Council has not done as good a job as the old Marrickville Council. The costs to de-amalgamate should be covered by the NSW Govt and not the residents of IWC.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	as mentioned and answered earlier
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	As noted before, services declined and the council lost responsiveness to localised issued. Going back to the way things were will hopefully address these issued.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	As per my answers already given.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	As previously stated I dont think we have benefitted from the amalgamation I think we should have been consulted prior to amalgamation in which case I strongly believe residents of Balmain/Birchgrove would have voted to go in with the City of Sydney as Glebe did The current amalgamation was politically based and I dont believe the council should be political I am sick of the state of our neighbourhood
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	As previously submitted, individual councils are better scrutinised and controlled than one expansive area.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	As said earlier in survey.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	As said previously, to future proof our local councils from centralisation.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	As some one who has lived in Leichhardt for over 20 years I haven't perceived any improvement from the merged council. That may be because council is spending money on facilities & services my family don't use. De-amalgamation would allow better focus on the need De-amalgamation would allow better focus on the diversity of the community
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	As stated earlier, the Council's performance and responsiveness to residents has been worse since amalgamation I cannot identify one area of service which has improved since amalgamation. I am aware of some actions taken by the amalgamated Council which have made things worse
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Ashfield has been neglected since the amalgamation
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Ashfield LGA functions more efficiently when able to manage its local area. Response times are faster. We have a different ethnicity, different infrastructure needs and different requirements to the other merged LGAs.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Assess best for the community
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	at leat have a go
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because this is not working in its current form
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because council told us they would be doing this after the Plebescite. It's a total disgrace! Resident's wishes have been totally ignored. Why hasn't this action already been completed?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because deamalgamating will reduce LONG TERM debt The services we're receieving right now have NOT improved The number of councillors do NOT represent the number of residents It is impossible to engage with councillors because they are so over worked. There will be more council jobs when there are several councils again.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because de-amalgamation is our best chance for restoring responsive and responsible councils, even though it will cost money because of the forced amalgamation

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	because have seen no benefit to de-amalgamation - things were fine and a bit better before
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because I believe locals should control their own local issues.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because I support de-amalgamation and believe a smaller council works better. It was not the choice of the people in this area and we were forced into amalgamation in the first place
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because I support the pre-amalgamation service levels
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because I think that
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because I voted for deamalgamation. Separate councils should be more efficient.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because I voted to deamalgamate
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because I want Marrickville council back and i'm prepared to pay!!
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because I'm voting for de-amalgamation so therefore I want it to return to the way it was.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because inner west council is corrupt and not delivering good services
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because it is not working. Our community is suffering and our rights are being stripped from our hands (cue westconnex and traffic caused by it). Also reasons listed before
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because it is what the majority of people have voted for Because almost nobody wanted the amalgamation and we didn't get a say Amalgamation has been an expensive and dismal failure
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because it should not be a political power play To restore true local government To better serve residents
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because it's the best option All the options are loaded questions

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because it's what I voted for - why are you even asking again? It's best for the community Better local representation Less corruption
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because it's what the majority of residents voted for.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because IWC is not providing services at a level that Marrickville council did
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because levels of service and, especially, communication from current Council are not good enough.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because that is what a majority of people have voted for.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because that is what residents voted for previously
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because that is what the majority of residents have already voted on and the current council is not acting on the wishes of the majority How many times and ways do you need to be told that the majority of residents want de amalgamation
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	because that is what the majority of residents have voted for and the current arrangements don't bloody-well work
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because that was what people wanted in the survey, but it must be business case advocating how to implement a successful demerger not one that is against it. Business Case is clearly written by a company who were given a brief to make it unfeasible, for example why pay people redundancy to leave, if there is still a position for them then they can make their own choice, no monies required, that just encourage people to leave in the current market Technology is the biggest cost, there is smart technology and old technology, these costs look based on old technology, I know councils have a reputation for this but the company writing the business case should be more progressive more details are needed on financial model. e.g former Leichhardt council makes up most the parking revenues, these would ned to go back to new Leichhardt You

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	seem to be suggesting the service levels have totally improved since inner west began but are not actually providing any specifics, again seems to be due to a focus on writing a business case tat is designed to be rejected. By the name a business case is a case for the business to do what it is about. Clearly the Mayor and General Manager of Inner West have their own agenda, hopefully a corruption commission will investigate if this goes through.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because that's what we voted for before the Liberals took away our democratic voting
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because the amalgamation is not working as promised
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because the community and I voiced our wishes to de-amalgate back to to a smaller local council, that was forcibly taken away from us. As a local I want to feel connected to my local community, acces to open council meetings in my local area. I want my councillors to be my neighbours and to truly understand and care about issues in my local area. I want to see our heritage Leichhardt Council Chambers in use again for council meetings. I am better represented in a smaller council with fewer residents per Councillor and Councillors who live locally I know services are not at the level they were at with Leichhardt Council. I want to return to the service levels we has with Leichhardt Council.I want to see democracy and transparency returned by de-amalgamtion to Leichhardt Council The Inner West Council is noan effective advocate on important local issues. It is toobig, staff are stretched and most Councillors are not local. Leichhardt Council was a strong and effectiv advocate for its local community. As soon as the new Inner West Council was elected last year the majority Labor Councillors reduced council meetings by 50% and shutting out community voice and advoacy, by using their numbers to

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	decide on issues behind closed doors. This is unaccepted and undemocratic.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because the current business case is skewed towards the majority ALP councillors wishes, not the residents. Ratepayers money has been wasted on getting a business cases that is so obviously skewed against the wishes of over 62% of the IWC residents.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because the forced amalgamation, which did not go to a vote by residents, has been a disaster for Leichhardt.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because the inner west council is not a local government.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because the IWC does not represent St Peter's, Sydenham, sometimes Tempe
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because the IWC structure has not benefited Balmain.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because the majority have already voted on this
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	because the Mega council is not listening to us people. We have spoken already and I find it insulting to have to do this again and again!
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because the services were better when it wasn't so generalised
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	because the situation prior to amalgamation was much better than the current situation.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because this council has done nothing to deserve my loyalty

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because this is what 68% of us voted for during the last council elections. Please do your jobs and do what the MAJORITY of residents want!
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because we are about to become a republic and proper genuine local representation will be more important than ever
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because we voted and said yes to de-amalgamation. Whilst Ashfield may have enjoyed improved services compared to what they had, the rest of the forced LGA have had significantly downgraded services The dominant faction on council (and mayor) along with the latest GM need to stop playing politics and provide a very strong case for demerger.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Because you made this survey so biased
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Better and nore localised services
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Better for the individual suburbs. Residents gain more benefits off dealing with local council who know the area. Would rather champion local council members working for their residents Tired of paying higher rates with no benefits for the individual community.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Better individual services
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Better local representation
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	better local services
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Better management
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Better representation and services provided to our specific area
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Better representation from councillors You know the council workers No empire building by certain councillor Councillors will have fewer people to represent Councillors to have better access to Council staff
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Bring the council back to the people Planning & development stopping poor decision making

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Business case must be made by a credible firm which is not politically aligned Council should explore costs and options available. Liaise with other councils which are demerging doing the Committees should reflect local interests.eg Local Traffic Committee. Transparency. Share priorities with local community. Make council accessible. eg A meeting scheduled for10:30pm is farcical. The benefits touted with amalgamationhave failed to appear eg Before and after rates.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Business case needs to be done again with community input. Staffing increased enormously with the new Council so a return to pre amalgamation levels would be both economical and able to deliver services at pre amalgamation levels. both economical Councils can still cooperate and share resources where that is seen to be effective. The options presented seem to have some unsupported suppositions . Community needs to be involved and given all the facts
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Business case will force rigour, analysis and proper costs to be made in the case
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Business cases speak for themselves
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	'cause that's what we voted for and I still think that is best for us.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Change is needed Focus on certain areas is needed Accountability will be easier More action will happen
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Community interests are more than a business model Business should be about the health and needs of a community
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Concentrated services Better services
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Costs have gone up Services have gotten worse
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Could not see much benefits from amalgamation
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Council area too big so no interest in local area
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Council must follow the democratic principle. Community has voted clearly in favour for the

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	deamalgamation, therefore it is clear the case must be submitted with a positive view.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Council must submit a business case to government to de-amalgamate as there was an overwhelming vote in favour and the community was told if the increased cost of deamalgamation in the business case presented prior to the election
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Council rates in Haberfield have already risen a disproportionate amount compared to other suburbs in the LGA. According to the State Government in 2016, Council rates would decrease with greater efficiency in a larger Council. Council rates are already higher than what they were under Ashfield Council. Council policies apply to all the LGA as a monolith and do not allow for particular characteristics of individual suburbs. Haberfield has only one councillor who is a resident in a Council of 15. If Tim Stephens had not been elected, Haberfield would have no resident represenatatives at all.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Council should be smaller and more local
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Council should seek compensation from NSW Govt for being one of only a few councils that merged. Other councils that didnt merge are running fine. You should include residents in the business proposal to the minister
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Council was better before amalgamation
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Council's level of interest in our suburb appears very low Our suburb had better initiatives under previous council Next to no interest in hearing concerns of residents Response times terrible ie waiting months for reply to emails
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Councils and councillors are meant to be local and focus on local issues. Whilst similar in culture, the issues facing the each of the wards are varied.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Councils need to be small + local. Party politics needs to be banned. Career politicians need to be excluded from Council. Big Council is expensive and inefficient. Big Council is not good for local communities.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	Amalgamation was forced on us.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Councils need to be small + local. Party politics needs to be banned. Career politicians need to be excluded from Council. Big council is expensive and inefficient. Big council is not good for local communities. Amalgamation was forced on us.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Council's service delivery has been much poorer than was the case prior to amalgamation
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Current amalgamation is ineffective Current amalgamation is inefficient
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Current Council does not care for the areas to the east of Parramatta Road Services are rubbish Rates go up Councillors and mayor should be carrying out the wishes of the people according to the vote previously
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	De amalgamate
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	de-amalgamation is a pointless resource sapping distraction
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	De-amalgamation is required to ensure appropriate local representation and support.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Deamalgamation will provide a much better services than currently experienced by residents in the Leichhardt Municipaltiy
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	De-amalgamation would be in best interest for separate councils.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	De-amalgamation would be in best interest for separate councils.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Do it now We voted for it Council staff need to stop delay it out of selfishness
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Each prev council had its own identity. It was a more representative entity. Def more effective in all aspects.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Each previous council had its own identity. It was a more representative entity. Def more effective in all aspects

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Each previous council had its own identity. It was a more representative entity. Def more effective in all aspects.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Efficiency does not always equal effectiveness. Inner west services have been expensive. Bigger means more remote to people.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Efficiency Identity Politics
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	End Mike Baird corruption Greater local engagement Council representing actual area not zone
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Firstly, a triumph for democracy and grass-roots governance over remote, arrogant authority led by an odious merchant-banker type (good riddance Premier Baird).. Secondly,we were viable Councils before; we now have more ratepayers than ever to provide income and can be so again.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	For all previous reasons given in this survey. Amalgamation has caused frustration and stress in dealing with The Inner WestCouncil Many of us purchased lawnmowers to keep our verges tidy because IWC were so slack, Leichhardt Council was a whole lot better Communication with UWC caused too much stress. Staff often did not have adequate training to answer questions

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	For all the reasons listed previously. The current mega IWC does not provide the level of democratic, local, personalised representative that we previously experienced with Marrickville Council, and this is the level of local governance that I want back. I do not believe that the 3 options provided are objective enough, nor provide enough information for the costings, and are therefore biased towards encouraging people to NOT support the de-amalgamation business case. I also believe that the tone of correspondence from the Mayor and Labor councillors is not enthusiastic about the de-amalgamation case, despite the fact that 63% of people voted YEs for the de-merger, and this lack-lustre performance and lack of transparency and consultation in the process is shameful and disappointing. The council merger was forced upon the electorate by the Liberal state government, based on the argument that it would result in better financial outcomes and increased efficiencies in many areas - this has been proven in many merged councils including to be emphatically NOT the outcome. The Liberal state government must be held accountable for this, and therefore must be held responsible for the financial cost of the de-merger. The Business Case for de-amalgamation should be as thoroughly positive for a de-merger result as possible. The non-quantifiable element of lack of representation/personalisation/local focus that many many people have expressed over the past 5 years must be given some kind of important "value" in the equation vs cost etc. Local government is the essence of democracy - it is the only place that regular people can have a voice and a say, and that is a priceless commodity. The decision should not be just about basic
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	For all the reasons that deamalgamation is a good idea
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	For an evidence based management tool, transparency and accountability in order to deliver and monitor the process of de-amalgamation We need a business case for strategy and solutions as

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	well as a commercial & financial case We also need a measurement tool
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	For exactly the same reasons I voted in favour of the original de-amalgamation process. It is very clear that this survey has been designed to dissuade residents from supporting the de-amalgamation process, despite the fact they have already overwhelming expressed their views on the matter in the plebiscite. I want council to respect that democratic process, not try and manipulate residents through push polling.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	For reasons listed earlier
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	For the above mentioned reason. a) Services have deteriorated b) IW Council is not as responsive to resident's needs as Marrickville Council was c) Amalgamated Council is less likely to be able to act in the interests of residents. State Govts find it easier to impose major projects such as Westconnex d) less accountability to residents. e) different areas of Sydney have different needs/problems. eg Balmain is not Marrickville (I work in Balmain, live in M.)
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	For the reason I have already stated in answer to a previous question this is not just a "business case" it is about the time it takes to get to a meeting, it is about getting to know Councillors, it is about councillors getting to know about issues in an area which they know nothing about, it is about involving the public who know about issues that councillors need to know such the history of a place, a proposal ....
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	for the reasons I gave in the previous answer
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	For the reasons outlined in the previous question about why I voted YES to demerge.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	For the reasons previously provided
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	for the reasons stated in previous question
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	For the reasons stated previously

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	For the same reasons as mentioned in previous comments block. I'm not delighted to have to pay more money for something that was meant to save us money originally (the forced amalgamation) but at least I hope service levels will improve if we revert to smaller councils.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	For the same reasons I voted for in 2021. Council should be local, for the locals.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	For the same reasons in my previous reasons.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Get rid of IWC which nobody asked for and let us get back to where we were before the government interfered
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Give us back our council. It was a political stunt to rob us of council. Thanks for nothing, LibLabs.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	greater efficiency better communication more local
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Greater representation for rate payers
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Greater representation per resident Numbers justify smaller council as per other LGA's More focus on needs of particular pre amalgamation LGA's i.e I don't care what's happening 20 K's away. Reduce power, influence and profile of mayor of larger LGA
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Happy to pay a bit more in order to have a more representative council
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Happy with Marrickville Council before amalgamation
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Hope it improves the council's productivity Marrickville should have to carry the poorer LGA's
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I ant to go to festivals talks meetings like I did in the old days.....
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I agree with de-amalgamation!

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I already explained in my former answer about why I voted for de-amalgamation in the first place. I frankly find the way this survey had been out together insulting to the intelligence of the IWC residents and a blatant push to run a scare campaign that will get residents backing off their original thoughts on de-amalgamation by trying to convince us we will be worse off. This survey had been prepared to try and force the response that the mayor wants: a no for de-amalgamation. We are being held in enormous conte
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I am looking for the best improvement to the area at the most reasonable cost.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I am pro de-amalgamation and am aware that this survey presents premises that are designed to achieve particular results and are very leading. It is obvious that the results desired are to remain as Inner West Council. I have already voted for the de-amalgamation and don't understand why I have to go through this survey again.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I answered that in the section why I voted yes
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I believe de-amalgamation will improve services and responsiveness from council to residents. A smaller council will provide better representation by councillors of the council residents.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I believe that deamalgamated councils are the only way they will be run efficiently and serve the interests of the people in the local area they represent.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I believe the community will receive better services if de amalgamation proceeds
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I believe the council culture has declined since amalgamation. The mayor has been officially reprimanded. Councillors no longer have visibility. I prefer the original 3 councils to the amalgamated council.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I believe the smaller Leichardt Council was better managed, more accessible, more accountable and the councillors more representative of the ratepayers than the larger IW Council. I also think

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	the pre-amalgamation service level provided was superior.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I can only speak as a resident of the Marrickville area and have never felt part of the Inner West Council Area. It seems remote from us. It is more like Leichhardt Council area and we have joined them. We had the amalgamation forced upon us and if we had been given a choice in the first place there would have been a huge saving in the costs of amalgamating. That was really poor management!
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I do not support IWC in any form and want to return to Marrickville Council. Neither do I support the second option allowing any IWC in participating in any Marrickville Council services.I also believe that Council elections be held after de-amalgation so we can choose councillors exiting the Labour councillors who have corruptly deceived the ratepayers.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I do not understand why rate payers are now to be forced to pay for what the State Government did and the local council did not fight against I would like to know the difference in annual projected deficits should the State Government not forced the amalgamation The State Government forced it they should pay for it Of course everything should be reinstated - we had a sustainable council prior to this forced amalgamation I am unsure why after 6 years they are no longer sustainable without increasing rate on top of the rate they will no doubt ask for IPART The local community wanted and still wants self determination - this should be respected and as in any remedy we should be put back in the position we were before someone interjected without our approval
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I don't like inner west council. I've seen how they have wrecked Annette Kellerman aquatics - a complete joke.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I don't see any changes in Newtown thanks to IWC Most changes I feel happen in Balmain,

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	Leichhardt, Ashfield, Stanmore I feel Newtown has been underserved by the IWC
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I don’t want to pay increased rate
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I don't believe that maintaining current service level will cost more. The Council state using uniform servic across the 3 de-amalgamated areas mot feasible they need to do their ho.ework better. Most i dustries get savings by such methods Want a more responsive Council
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I don't really know what the right decision is. I want better tree coverage in the area and better cycling infrastructure.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I feel it was forced on council's to join together and unfair to do this. It has been voted to de-amalgate But the cost should be paid for by the federal government for forcing this to happen Rather than the residents.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I hate IWC
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I have already answered a question that asked why I favour de-amalgamation.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I have no faith in the amalgamated council, service levels have deteriorated significantly Service has diminished and management are nigh on incompetent Priorities of the amalgamated council are not focused enough locally with too much concern on issues that that do not benefit the local area I live in..
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I have not seen any improvement since the amalgamation Want more say on how you spend my rate and tax money in my local area Don’t get any value from improvements made to Ashfield and Marrickville areas as part of the amalgamation

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I have outlined reasons already. Plus I don't trust your business case entirely. You have not factored in all costs and benefits. Plus Leichhardt Council was massively in credit before amalgamation and will catch up again. All costs are going up so a little extra per year to get back where we were is absolutely worth it. I forgot to mention the complete unacceptability of entertaining proposals to sell off or long lease privately town halls previously part of our community that has come with this Lib- imposed ama I also forgot to mention that local community is where the least powerful spend most of their time & local govt gives them a voice and needs to be truly local & truly democratic. Kids, teens, carers of kids, elderly, mentally ill and disabled (usually women), women, elderly, part-time & casually employed, underemployed, mentally ill & disabled. What amalgamation has done is robbed these groups of the services and fabulous democratic voice famous at Leichhardt Council tghat was previously theirs
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I have seen the bureaucracy increase and service levels go down. No one is now accountable.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I objected to the de-amalgamation as I saw no need for it. The state government who mandated the change should pay for the process.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I said before.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I say submit a quality business case informed by consultation, not the junk draft business case. The case for de-amalgamation needs to be considered following the vote of IWC residents The IWC is not the decision maker, the Minister is. Its hard to see how IWC would justify not progressing the case.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	i see a lot of improvements in other council areas but not ashfield /? ashfield rates are funding projects in other council areasseems to be s the poor cousin to the other three nothing has been done to improve Pratten park or the vacant lot in holden street/ opposite park avenue for over 8 years we got new garbage bins that was all i

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	remember that innerwest council did for me personally
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I still see no benefit in amalgamation
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I support dde-amalgamation
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I SUPPORT DEAMAGLAMATION AMALGAMATION WAS A BAD IDEA BEFORE AND IS A BAD IDEA NOW RATES UNDER THE AMALGAMATED COUNCIL HAVE INCREASED AND ACCOUNTABILITY REDUCED THERE IS NO NEED FOR A BUSINESS CASE, PEOPLE HAVE VOTED FOR DEAMALGAMATION.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I support de-amalgamation
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I think a council serving a smaller electorate will provide a tailored and better service
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I think that Inner West Council is its current amalgamated form covers too large an area. Inner West council should represent Balmain, Rozelle, Lilyfield, Leichhardt, Marrickville & Newtown whilst suburbs further afield such as Ashfield, Croydon, Hurlstone Park & Mascot should be a government by another separate council.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I voted for a demerger at the council elections and I think it should be undertaken asap. 63% of those who voted at the election agreed with a demerger and I believe nothing has changed in my mind since then. Please just do it!
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I voted for de-amalgamation in the last elections. It is my wish that the 3 Councils should de-amalgamate and provide the older service that they once did.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I want a council area I can identify with. I want councillors who will know my concerns because they live near me.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I want Akac back to normal.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	i want local representation Services have decreased since amalgamation Rates have risen

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	with reduced services council is no longer as efficient since amalgamation
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I want Marrickville Council back and the local services we received under them and not the current IWC.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I want my local council to be local
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I want the smaller Leichhardt Council back. I then expect that Balmain?Birchgrove matters are taken care of and not side lined.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I want to see a return to smaller councils. I do not think super councils can properly meet the needs of our very diverse localities and communities.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I want to understand the details before voting
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I want true local representation. After living in Ashfield all my life, after amalgamation I found myself in Leichhardt ward with no person representing me from my own area. My local issues are truly local and not necessarily those experienced by Leichhardt and I want someone from my area who really knows this area to repesent me.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I was more than satisfied with Marrickville Council as it was I still believe I will have better representation under de-amalgamation Each council will be better focused on local issues Local government should be close and accessible
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I was never in favour of amalgamation
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I would like more opportunity for engagement and involvement of residents. We are in a time where we need greater flexibility and innovation of council and the ability to draw from the strengths of local residents. I have been very unsatsified with the handling of the de-amalgation process by the Inner West Council. Residents have not been adequately involved in the development of the business case. This gives me little confidence in the current set up of the Inner West Council to be responsive to ideas from residents and to draw from our strengths. Please check recomendations from Residents fro Deamalgamation for more

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	information. https://www.facebook.com/groups/residentsfordeamalgamation/permalink/352710570238526/
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I would prefer more personalised services for the area
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I'd like a smaller council, easily accessible
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I'd like to see a return to previous service levels and a more localised representation.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	I'd like the de-amalgamation to proceed
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	If 62% of people voted for deamalgamation, I can't see how council can avoid following the "will of the people" and present the case for it. If the vote is not going to be respected, why have it in the first place? I guess you could just bite the bullet and tell people that outcome was never promised and remind them the vote was non-binding (on what? The de-amalgamation or the presenting of the case?). I'm sure the appropriate weasel words can be found. Better call Marketing.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Im support for de-amalgamation because want small and organized council for our community
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Improved local representation Better alignment to community Service level improvements Self-determination of priorities Self-determination of finding allocation
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Improved representation for local area
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Incompatible cultures between communities - more affluent Leichhardt community dominating council culture. Loss of progressive leadership. Inefficiencies in staff having to cover larger area and decentralised staff offices leading to increased siloing and a dysfunctional organisation that isnt integrated leading to waste of resources and duplication of effort across departments and associated poor outcomes for community. Would

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	like to see option for Ashfield and Marrickville councils to stay merged. More compatible communities.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Inner West Council covers quite a large & diverse area and I think it would be better if we reverted to former individual Council arrangements.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Inner west council has demonstrated that it cannot provide services fairly across zones Stronger representation from locals is likely to result in a more progressive and community minded Marrickville council as before
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Inner west council has destroyed my area. Bring back marricville
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Inner West Council has displayed a failure of good governance. Political power plays do not equate to the best interests of residents. The documents prepared by the "Consultant" do not provide sufficient rigor to justify the conclusions. Transparency and accounting for every decision in detail was not provided. The simplistic analysis is not sufficient weight to support the continuing amalgamation. The wasted years will never wind back the three new Councils as though time stood still. The 3 new Councils will be changed to that of 7 years ago. Priorities will have changed to reflect changes in society. Inner West Council is very defficient of community representation.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Inner west council is too big to support all communities. Croydon park is the poor relation and given little consideration. The same can't be said for Petersham, Haberfield and the Likes of the more affluent or trendy suburbs A C positive step would be to make Darcey Byrne pay his outstanding rates Also I would like to see the residents elect the mayor
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Inner West Council needs to go ... lets get out of this. No community feel, just corporate profits, its time to get local again!

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Inner west is too big to look after all the areas
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Innerwest council have proven to be pretty useless.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Issues in eg balmain and Ashfield of no concern to me
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	It is a better system
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	It is more expensive now with less services and there is little regard for the different areas.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	It is only fair. Residents were never given the choice of amalgamation in 2016 in the first place. It was only the policitcal whim of the Premier Mike Baird.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	It is the overwhelming will of the electors of the Inner West. The elected members, particularly Labour, need to listen to the will of their constituents. Current de-amalgamation efforts have been extremely sub-par to this point. It's difficult to feel any confidence that the elected representatives, and senior council executive, are committed to the de-amalgamation process. Just GET IT DONE, already!
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	It may cost more initially but we get our LOCAL government back
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	It should never have happened to begin with. The community never supported it, it was anti-democratic. It’s a shame it will be so wasteful to undo, but that is the mess that was heaped on us.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	It was an illegal process in the first place Services have significantly declined since amalgamation Better representation in local council w/de-amalgamation
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	It was the wish of the residents
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	It was voted on and the service levels and community input has decreased over time since amalgamation.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	It will be better I don't know why it will cost more And lose staff at the same time

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	It worked better before Especially as each area is different
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	It would be good for residents to actually have a say in how they are governed. It was appalling and so disheartening when the amalgamation was forced on us. Still i don't expect deamalgamation to be accepted. No one especially the current council, management and employees are obviously not in favour so it is unlikely to happen Residents are unimportant ultimately
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	It's time to listen to the people. The service levels have reduced.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	It's time to listen to the residents. Deamalgamtate. It will be an important election issue if not.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	It's an inefficient and illegal situation.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Its crystal clear that the Inner West Council is not be genuine in it's response to the majority vote to de-amalgamate the council. This survey is not necessary because the people have voted to de-amalgamate. So just get on with putting forward the business case. We need a council that will be closer to local issues and provide better overall representation to the people in each area.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	IWC has ben an unsuccessful experiment. Great savings were anticipated but have not occurred. Service levels are poor. Representation has been reduced. An effective Business Case is needed. Morrison Low made the wrong call in 2016 so should not present another biased report. staff and Councillors cannot be expected to know or identify with such a diverse area.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	IWC has proved inefficient and out of touch with residents concerns. There has been a clear majority vote in favour of de amalgamation in the 2021 poll. The people have voted, the result is clear anf shoukd not be questioned. Business case is not the issue as NSW Government has agreed to pay for the costs of de amalgamation.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	IWC is a failure Residents are treated poorly Haberfield planning controls have significantly weakened Peter Gainsford is not a suitable GM
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	IWC is too big and unwieldy. It is inefficient. We were made to amalgamate it was not something we had a say in. The MARRICKVILLE council area is very different to Ashfield and Leichhardt. We want to maintain the personality and integral community persona that is MARRICKV like.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	IWC is too big. Councillors have too many residents to be effective. Very poor maintenance of roads parks footpaths buildings.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	IWC is too big. Marrickville council was able to communicate more efficiently with residents, and was able to more effectively provide the services that we need. I do not feel that IWC is able to respond to local concerns.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Just de-amalgamate already
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Just get on with it. The residents voted at the last council election to de-amalgamate. This survey is a furphy. Just watch Darcy use selected answers to squirm out of a democratic Decision by the residents to block our voting intentions.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Just stated that would prefer to de-amalgamate
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Keeping issues local and more relevant. We can't afford more rate rises
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	lack of efficiency of the amalgamated council Services restored to pre amalgamation levels Community needs addressed at the local level local councillors foe local areas local areas maintained to a satisfactory level
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Leichhardt Council provided higher service levels than the current Inner West Council, was smaller, more democratic, more efficient, more responsive to the needs of rate payers and residents, had greater planning and environmental controls.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Leichhardt Council worked more efficiently than the current model. Leichhardt Council could keep

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	their budget in the black. Staff satisfaction was high under Leichhardt Council.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Leichhardt has been forgotten about. After the rain we had a month or so ago, our local park was not looked after and went without being mowed for the next month.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Leichhardt was doing well on its own, changing its heavily bureaucratic administration answering to itself and finally , in their last years, appearing to be more customer service focused. Need to reduce staff and serve their residents.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Let's get it done! Sooner the better
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Like the majority of residents who democratically voted for deamalgamation, a case should be submitted so that the residents wishes are conveyed to the Minister.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Local Council for local residents and issues We had better services prior to amalgamation - remove the inefficiencies It was forced on these LGAs, but not other LGAs and depleted resources Rates were adequate for services + growth - but still were increased Service levels did not improve relative to efficiencies claimed
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Local councils should represent local issues and people they should not be mini governments
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Local Government should be LOCAL and I was happy with Marrickville Council
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Local government will better represent the area
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Local people with local knowledge to support local cause. Inner West Council is too big to care about residents
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Local services not being provided Councillor representation
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Locally focussed services
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Majority of residents have never wanted amalgamation.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Majority voted for this - business case should be realistic with costs and benefits. I do believe the results of this poll should also be included and demonstrate how people thinking now more information provided to them. Council should act in good faith with voters in proposing the business case. Should also include dependent on being fully funded.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Many of the facilities and services currently provided don't seem particularly directed at my suburb/community. Will lead to a return to more locally based services. Could continue in future with current consortium of libraries and aquatic centres, as well as bringing back pre-amalgamation links/connections with other council's services.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Marrickville Council was working fine before de-amalgamation
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Marrickville is unique & needs to be represented by people focusing on its needs not the broad needs of dissimilar locations, communities
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Marrickville Matters!
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Marrickville's needs differ to the other areas.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	may provide better services
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Mayor is only there for hes ego
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	More focus on specific suburbs, each having their own demographic differences.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	More individual service for Inner West residents Provision of more localised Infrastructure Accessibility of Councillors Improved speediness of service Personal service
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	More jobs in reestablished councils. Keep same services. At $89 per year this is not expensive. However, not sure what exactly it will mean for rates. If it means a huge increase in rates then I would vote against deamalgamation.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	more localised infrastructure that can better execute the priorities of its constituents. Currently services have deteriorated
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Most residents did not want almalgamation in the first place
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Must happen. I consider this business case was paid by for council to influence residents on the basis of Labour councillors opposition to deamalgamation. I've lost trust in the council.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	My main concern is the increase in rates. Additional costs is unavoidable so I would prefer the option which will require less costs.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	My preference
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	My preference
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	My preference
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	My previous responses clearly articulate my reasons for de-amalgamation
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	My reasoning is the same as my reasoning for voting for the de- amalgamation; it should never have taken place and the cost is not so much as to be overbearing to me or anyone I know. The long term benefit of having more democratic local government will pay for itself.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Need for good representation by Councillors To meet the needs of particular area as each suburb covered has different needs To return to the standards of delivery that we were used to To have councillors and staff of Council more responsive to needs of individuals Especially in Leichhardt need to increase levels of road maintenance and reduce traffic on roads, provide more parking for residents
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Need to de-amalgamate!
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Never wanted the Amalgamation Local council should local
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	No comment

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	No cost saving as a result of merging Rates went up as a result No council focus on haberfield
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	NO TIME FOR COUNCIL DEBATE AND DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATION. Having watched sections of the May and June Council meetings and gone through the Business Case I'm seeing democracy trivialised. There is no debate, a majority of one enables decisions to be pushed through without being justified. The council is too big for all the matters to be dealt with in monthly meetings. We need the smaller councils with better representation. § NOT MY FAULT! NOT MY JOB! “Cr Mark Drury … said that the Inner West Council staff c BUSINESS IS BUSINESS! NON-FINANCIALS, IT'S A JOKE. Of course the Business Case makes only a token reference to non-financial factors, business is business! No place for sentiment down at the financial bottom line. The state government is neoliberal, non-financials are “externalities”, ie, irrelevant. Morrison Low holds that view? They make no effort to discuss non-financials. The Business Case says on page 2: “THE KEY BENEFITS IDENTIFIED ABOVE ARE NOT QUANTIFIABLE AND CANNOT BE INCLUDED IN A CALCULATION OF IT'S TIME TO ACT, TO PARTICIPATE, TO EMBRACE NON-FINANCIALS. In 2016 we amalgamated and the previous State of the Environment Report was published. In 2022 we're looking into deamalgamation and the latest State of the Environment Report cannot be ignored as the previous reports were. People still living in tents or caravans from the 2019 fires; a woman whose family home was lost to the Lismore floods held up Sydney traffic to get the message across to us, TO GET REAL. § Can't include non-financials in the calcu DISRUPTION IS AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE NORMALITY Values people might have in mind when looking to Aboriginal ways are described in the YouTube below at 52:09-55:53. The non-financial benefits must be given more public discussion time. 13th September is too soon for a final decision. There's no rush unless there are inconvenient truths to evade. We've had lots of that and I really do think we're over it and looking for better ways

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRg5nBQVdio The following highlights cover nearly ha NON-FINANCIALS OUR ECONOMY'S MAINSTAY. The Non-finance sector will again prove why it's the mainstay of our economy when the finance system again catastrophically collapses. Hugh Stretton ("Hugh Stretton:selected writings" Ch 11, 'Democracy and Home Ownership') wrote that capitalists and socialists want to be in control which can only be achieved through the money economy. It means they value only government activity and private enterprise and ignore the third and more productive sector, the residential sect
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Not happy with service of Inner West Rate payers should have more say and control over how their money is spent. Marrickville Council was better, though not perform. State Government should not have power to force amalgamation and should pay for its misdeeds
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Not my preferred option. Move Newtown and Enmore into the City of Sydney and unify the management of this very important part of Sydney.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Nothing has changed. See previous answers. We still want deamalgamation.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Opportunity to change tree clearing policy

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Option one,the mergers have failed as far as I'm concerned.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Our community voted for de-amalgamation across the entire IWC Please do as the community asks and put a STRONG case supporting de-amalgamation
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Our council was taken away even though we did not agree with the NSW Government plan. No one in Macquarie St was listening.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Overall InnerWest Voted to de-amalagmate
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	People have voted on this view The business case is poorly drafted and the survey tries to scare against voting for de amalgamation
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Per earlier comments
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Please see earlier response as to why I voted against amalgamation. I am happy to pay a little more for services appropriate to this area. I feel that the old Marrickville LGA is not now properly represented. I feel that the business case presented to retain amalgamation is biased. I find contradictory arguments against de-amalgamation such as increased staff costs and decreased staff numbers difficult to follow. I think that the needs of Ashfield and Leichhardt are different. I think that the reduced representation on Council is not in our interests.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Prefer
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Preferred Leichhardt Council
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	present IWC too removed from people
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Previous Councils provided better services. Residents were able to access local Councillors for help. Services/Meeting venues available in local area. Leichhardt Council was in a better financial situation than IWC. Streets, parks etc were cleaner and better maintained by Leichhardt Council.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Prioritising single council would see benefits inclusive of the zoned areas

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Rate payers need greater representation at the local level
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Re focus on the needs of the Balmain community
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Reasons as per provided in prev. Q'sBasically better access to councillor so meaningful input to policy and other decision making processes more personal and effective relationship with saffSmaller lga means all taff have an excellent knowledge of the area and the needs of its communituy better access to all staffas I said--incl. reasons provided already
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Reasons stated in previous answers
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Reduced sevices Lack of identity Not in i Teresa of residents to remain as inner west council Inner west council is too big
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Refer to previous comments
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Residents have already voted Hard to believe that initial costs of de-amalgamation will be high given that is mostly at surface level only If any savings have occurred in procurement of services, no reason why the three councils can't continue to work together on these items Entire survey makes the assumption that service levels HAVE increased under IWC. Would like to see just one example of this Just because you are spending more money doesn't mean service is better
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Respect the 62.5% vote for deamalgamation in the December 2021 non-binding poll To take advantage of the new legislative provisions for deamalgamation To put local back into council To restore levels of representation to levels before forced amalgamation Because IWC is too big and has become too remote from residents
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Return back to Marrickville council and concentrate in improving our community and area
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Return to previous good service
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Same answers as before
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Same reason as I supported it previously

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Same reason I voted for de-amalgamation
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	See above
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	See all my previous answers.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	See answers to 5b
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	See answers to question 5b.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	see my correspondence to council over many years
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	See other questions before
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	see previous answers
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	see previous answers.Make sure it is an accurate, evidence based, robust business case. If the draft is anything to go by I think it needs a whole rewrite and a whole new understanding about what makes a community tick and be loved its residents. the business case could relate to any community, it is poor in its understanding of the values and aspirations of those 62% who want de amalgamation. this high percentage of residents is evidence itself that the business case needs much more content and strong arguments. Let's not pretend here! lets get real and honest. the residents want it - it's hard to see that the current mayor and all of the councillors are committed to the wishes of the communities they are supposed to serve. BTW the website address is wrong at the bottom of the flyer draft business case! another example of lack of care or a genuine mistake?? It means that you can't go to the website for comment unless you actually know the correct address.It will stop people being able to comment!
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	see previous Ashfield area is much worst off than before IWC poor management has/is seriously caused/ing damage to Haberfield Haberfield rates are now much higher than, and paying for, rest of IWC
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	See previous comments
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	See previous comments

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	See previous reasons Also, my personal experience with Council is that the larger council is less effective and more bureaucratic than the previous smaller Leichhardt council.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	See previous response
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	See previous response.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Seems inevitable but we should not lose services .
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Seperate councils for different suburbs within the inner west
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Seriously? It's obvious whoever commissioned this doesn't want to demerge but the people have voted. Got over yourselves.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Service has seriously deteriorated
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	service levels provided by Marrickville Council prior to amalgamation were sufficient and serviced Marrickville well
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Service levels since amalgamation are very poor. The assumptions made that post amalgamation service levels in a deamalgamated council are erroneous. There is no guarantee that deamalgamated councils will bring service levels up in line with each other, nor is there any evidence that service levels would be equitable across the amalgamated IW council area Eg CB City only provides childcare in the former Canterbury LGA and has made no effort to increase this service to the former Bankstown LGA. There is therefore no evidence to support that we should trust there would be equitable service level provision across former LGAs in your business case.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Services are currently terrible. Marrickville rates were cheaper with better services. IWC has dragged its feet on electric vehicle charging, we're FAR behind other councils.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Services in Marrickville have dropped drastically but rates have gone up. Service allocated to Leichhardt Council far outway those received by Marrickville. According to an independent studfy, no savings were made from amalgamation and some Councils increased cost Current Council does not serve all 3 areas equally. The case for not de-amalgamating sent to residents is manufactured to look poor. Not factual., No redundancies needed. 3 Councils will need more, not less staff.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Services in newtown are much worse than before amalgamation Streets and footpaths have not been maintained Garbage bins are missed and all broken Roads are full of cracks/holes Vandalism of buildings is worse
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Services overall have gotten worse since amalgamation. Quarterly bills arrive late all the time, if at all. We don't support mega councils. Over-development has become a big problem. Mega councils encourage corruption, is. Canada Bay.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Services under inner west have declined and efficient communication with council were lost with council were lost
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	SHOULD BE TESTED SEE ALSO MY EARIER COMMENTS
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Small Councils listen better than large Councils and respond to what they hear
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Smaller councils are more effective
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Smaller councils can better understand their voters.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	So each are can be serviced to its own particular issues and not lost 'in the big picture'.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	So that each area of the present Inner-West Council would get its fair share of care and benefits from its council.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Submit business case for a de-amalgamation

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Superzizing Local Council areas reduces the voice of the citizens in that area.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	That is the wishes of over 64% of Residents
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	That is what community want Gives community better representation with councillors who know area Budgets and services are suited to the smaller community The council meetings are local and cover less items as area smaller Council more responsive to input as smaller area
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	That's the best solution for local representation and effectiveness
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	thats what I voted for as did 62.5% of residents
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The 3 suburbs are different and need separate councils
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The amalgamation has been a failure. Efficiencies are dwarfed by merger costs. Amalgamation appears to be an exercise in empire building.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The amalgamation has diminished democracy It's been exprnsive IWC too big to be effective
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The bigger council loses focus on details and allows for too many exceptions to accepted standards and norms.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The business case isn't as objective as council suggest.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The business case shows out is doable. For the same reasons I voted for it in the first place. I have always believed that the forced amalgamations were, by definition, bad governance.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The combined council leaves me worse off
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The council has failed to maintain a once thriving suburb, making things like the park unusable and unsafe due to lack of maintenance or care.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The Councils should never have been amalgamated, it was a bad idea and all residents have suffered because it became to big and couldn't cater for every local area.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The current council is too big, too remote, too many staff changes, incredible loss of the history. need to revert to a smaller team which will be close to the community. Minimum number of councillors, suggest maximum seven.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The current Inner West Council does not adequately represent me, or my suburb
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The current model is not working
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The current performance by Innerwest council has been very poor. Ths easy removal of trees Trying to obtain a parking permit in my street hopeless. In the end i had to go to the council chambers in Leichhardt. The major, Darcy Burne, just rolled over on the amalgamation and Westconnex, Etc, etc..
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The current service level is completely unacceptable. The responses to various requests and enquiries I've made have received non sensical answers and I continue to follow up requests that were supposedly resolved months ago. Marrickville is a large, growing and rapidly changing suburb that requires specific leadership, care and guidance from a dedicated council. The current amalgamated council simply cannot and does not provide that level of service for residents and my fear is that as the area continues to grow and change, poor decisions will ruin this special place.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	the experience has been negative to date
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	the extra cost due to decentralization is negligible I prefer a council that can decide directly for its constituents Marrickville interests, social and economic background are different than leichard et al.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The forced amalgamation was immoral, without community agreement and services remain fractured.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The inner west council added no value to the community the past few years - compared to the previous entities it replaced. Their so-called

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	"higher service levels" is not visible to the public. The only beneficiaries of the amalgamation look to be the people working at the council, not the people they are supposed to serve.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The Inner West Council area is too large. Council areas should be smaller to better represent the needs of the people within that smaller area.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The Inner West Council does not reflect the needs and wishes of the Balmain residents.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The inner west council doesn't represent the areas it covers Local councils should be kept small and focused on local issues Reduce possibility and minimise the impact ofcorruption Property developers will be forced to deal more locally. Local councils should not be able to make macro deals/decisions on development for large areas. Better support the heritage and community of the local areas
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The inner west council has it's priorities wrong. It's not about renaming suburbs or cutting ribbons. Homeowners want services and the streets to be clean. The IWC never weeded unless you asked them to, never mowed, gardens overgrown and rubbish everywhere.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The Inner West Council is a bowl of crap. They don't listen to rate payers as evidenced by this stupid survey. The premise that returning to the old Marrickville Council will cost more than the current level is not based on any factual evidence. Most rate payers (62.5 %) support de-amlgamation but 8 of the 15 Councillors don't so they are proposing a fake business case. I want the higher level of service, no sell offs of community assets and better representation with real resident consultation.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The inner west is a huge area and I would prefer a council that focused money and support on my local area only

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The IW improved service levels are non existent. I haven't seen any improvement It's a IW council/consultant spin to say same service as pre-amalgamation will cost more than now. Doesn't make any sense. All council need to be more efficient, like a commercial business and stop wasting residents money It's too large an area to effectively deliver local services Priority to some suburbs and neglect of others. Very unbalanced
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The majority thought about and voted for de amalagamation
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The merger is a failure. Demerging can help to rectify that. Darcy and the Labor team only created this push poll in order to sow doubts about demerger.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The Minister has the final say. Given the vote at the election I think is is best to put in the submission. while a majority voted yes it is not clear at all what informed understanding people had about the question. Many people miss the personal connections with various areas of the old councils. The IWC has corporatised. This has resulted in loss of connection. People miss that.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The option to return to the original Councils PRIOR to the initial amalgamation should also be considered eg Leichhardt, Balmain, Petersham, Annandale Councils given that services eg waste are readily contracted Non improvement in efficiency has occurred Council process remain opaque especially with DAs Not just a business case, its a choice albeit with a price
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The people have spoken, as per the poll already taken. In the name of democracy the Minister is obliged to action the de-amalgamation.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The people spoke and that cannot be ignored I find it cynical trying to re-do the opinion survey that people already voted on and supported
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The present Inner West Council is sub par

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The questions in the survey are based on misleading information. Rates are going up anyway. Rate harmonisation is much more complicated. On a politcal party level there is much more division as a bigger council and it looks rather factional this is not his majority councillors should act ie caucusing as a block is not the best for the community, stifles discussion and debate therefore undemocratic. Each previous council area has a different culture, that gets lost in a bigger council. Residents of St. Peter's get left out. I don't trust the business case as reported it projects figures 20 years out, that supports current IWC iteration. Even the language in this survey is bias to pushing an agenda I don't even understand. IE State Labor policy is to support return to smaller councils Council,shouldn't have mainly 2 parties split across party lines that's not how local government should work, it's obvious majority faction is against the majority wishes of the community. So mush for being progressive and transparent
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The ratepayers of Inner West Council have spoken clearly and emphatically. Two thirds want de-amalgamation.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The residents of the Inner West have spoken loudly in favour of de-amalgamation. It appears that the Council is looking for ways NOT to proceed with de-amalgamation. It appears that Council is trying to push back against de-amalgamation for self preservation Get on with what the majority of the people have demanded. The difficulty in being able to complete this survey is indicative of what I have said above.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The result of the poll taken during the election is clear - this is what the majority of residents want, and not following through accordingly would be a major breach of trust It's disingenuous not to submit a case amalgamation was forced and undemocractic the state govt needs to correct that

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The s are amalgamation should never have happened Service us not better than before amalgamating at all , it's much worse Suburbs are big and different so need their own councils
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The service levels of the inner west council are not what they claim. Many people in the Leichhardt council area are dissatisfied Everyone who voted had access to the de amalgamation poll, the result was for de amalgamation. This should be respected. An example of the poor service levels of the inner west council is that I will have to pay to get my general household rubbish picked up as the council cleanup service currently operated by the inner west council would result in my needing to book over 5 separate pickups & separate all waste. None of which is recyclable. Ie. metal garden stakes, separate to wooden garden stakes, separate to plastic pots Before deamalgamation the Leichhardt council had a surplus of funds and consulted the community through town meetings how it should be spent. The inner west council is in debt. Other areas of the Inner West are benefiting more than the former Leichhardt council.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The sooner we demalgamate the sooner we can progress
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	The vote showed a clear majority in favour of de-amalgamation The business case lacks merit, and should have been performed by another group Amalgamation was performed without mandate De-amalgamation has a mandate
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	There are case studies that support successful de-amalgamations There should be an option D that evaluates shared services across the de-amalgamated councils Use specialist local govt consultants to prepare a business case
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	There are other small councils that are effective The current political makeup means there is a preference for the Balmain Ward The Liberal Government forced amalgamation on to people

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	There has been no extra benefits received.There only has been extreme left issues of gender and climate only. Rate payers do not have a say.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	There have been ZERO cost savings passed on to rates payers based on reduced rates. There are objectively less services, eg waste Some services, eg recycling collection that in some cases is now collected days after being put out, are less reliable Why would costs go up after de-amalgamation ? Something tells me the consultants are awful at economics ?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	There is an implication by this survey that services have increased under the amalgamation - i just don't see it. All I see is a huge rate rise coming for me per year if the inner west remains - much more than a few hundred $ per year. The annual rates will increase by nearly 25% Is it because advantages / disadvantages are only for residents of Leichhardt? I have also not seen any improvments in the marrickville area. Even the gloosy brochured pumped out by council before the de-amalgamation vote last year was struggling to find developments in the area.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	There is no doubt that de-amalgamation will benefit residents.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	There is no question that services and maintenance can only improve on de-amalgamation. At present services are below those prior to amalgamation, de-amalgamation must certainly improve above the current situation.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	There was no credible evidence available to support the forced amalgamation in the first place Given the diversity and size now of the IW LGA the community lost more local representation There is no evidence available that the amalgamation has or will benefit the community after 8 years.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	These questions are meaningless as the basis of the three options is flawed. The proposed cist increases are not soundly based and make a nonsense of the whole survey. It is clearly designed to mislead voters and has no validity. A

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
	proper business case needs to be developed on sound costings taking account of the wish for deamalgamation expressed by the majority.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	This could restore the council
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	This is a poorly constructed survey with a preordained outcome in mind. Clearly councillors don't want to amalgamate and have found consultants to back them in. A disgraceful political job.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	This maybe simplistic, however, I think Council should be there initially for the BASICS ie empty your garbage and maintain the streets, ie the road surface and the verges ...the initial premise for your rates, then they can do everything else that is needed and NOT need, the nice to have, Citizen of the year, REALLY! An example of everything else, Development Applications, all the controls Council insists on, all very good, they insist the development looking good, BUT if the actual area its in is not kept well maintained WHATS THE POINT. IWC appears too big, just a simple case, potholes are getting bigger by the day, more damage to road structure, more money spent on the tar to fill it, OR is it that it is not being run efficiently ...my point is Gainsford the right person? Council needs BASIC service vehicles and manpower.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	This process feels as dishonest as the original forced merger.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	This question just seems to be designed to give those who voted against de-amalgamation a "second bit of the cherry". The results of the poll taken at a council election where voting was compulsory were that 62.5% were in favour of de-amalgamation. That could not be a clearer result. If residents had thought that the Council had been functioning properly, then they would not have voted in favour of de-amalgamation. Furthermore, in voting in favour of de-amalgamation, residents would have understood that there wou

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	This question should not even be asked in this survey. The council has the job of preparing the business case. Its job is not do convince residents not to go ahead with the de-amalgamation. The business case does not present the case for the de-amalgamation and nor does it allow people to present fully their case for the de-amalgamation in this survey. There are 5 lines only that can be completed on that and most of the survey is about telling a narrative about increased rates. The business case presented for consultation is a sham. Council is required to present the case FOR the deamalgamation- instead it proceeds with impunity to use selective data and deliberately manipulate it to sell a story about increased rates, failing of course to say that the Inner West Council has already significantly increased the council rates Please note that this survey is not consultation it is deliberately trying to persuade people not to support the de-amalgamation What I want is a council that does what the population told it to do and that is to get on and de-merge the 3 councils.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	This should have already been completed, as per the plebiscite. Residents need to be informed about the de-amalgamation process, including finances.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	This survey has been harder for me to do because I am not clear about service levels - what is going to change?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	This survey is a rort. Question 6 is nothing more than push polling. Services have declined under the amalgamation so the questions and cost estimates are nonsense. A polling company should be ashamed of itself for putting such an invalid poll into the field.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	This survey is crap. Why do you need endless surveys, spin and PR??? You don't listen to residents concerns in the 1st place.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	This survey is irrelevant as it derives from a demerger report commissioned by the Mayor & GM without consulting with Councillors…& released without expert review.The data has huge margins of error.The same consultants in 2015 forecast that a Council merger would make savings of $65m.Nonsense! This process is similarly flawed.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	this whole survey is another cost that could be avoided and these questions are a joke
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	To allow for better resident and area specific service. The inner west council is currently too large to service all areas equally.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	to improve services to local areas
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	To provide better services locally
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	To return the local focus of democracy back to residents To honor the voices of local representation as identified in poll results
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	To write the least I am appalled at the frankly dishonest information provided by Council and the consultants on the deamalgmation. This is spin of the worst order, and frankly the GM should resign over this. The case has deliberatley failed to engage with independent academic reaserch which shows bigger Councils cost more per head of population. The so called busines case to the Minister is in fact a case opposed to deamalgamation, and it should be withdrawn. Council should not be a play thing of the ALP or senior management. Both need to respect the wishes of the community and look at the deamalgmation case presented by Gundagai Council.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Ultimately it offers a better chance for government funding to be distributed to a smaller area. More specific governance by people who understand the needs and concerns of the local community
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Under the amalgamated Council all services have deteriorated.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Under the terms of the forced amalgamation in which the current Mayor colluded, submitting a business case for deamalgamation is an essential step to achieving deamalgamation. Therefore that step must be taken. If this survey's leading questions, and the Mayor's misleading deamalgamation document presented to the public at the last Council election are any indication, the business case for deamalgamation prepared for the benefit of the Mayor will also be misleading and deceptive. Misleading and deceiving the public is one thing, but creating a document with the intention of misleading and deceiving a government authority is a statutory crime. It appears that the Mayor intends to see if he can get away with this crime. I In the event that a truthful and accurate business case is presented to the state government, it will not look like any of the options presented on the previous page of this survey. The threats of large cost and rate blowouts as a result of deamalgamatiin are bogus. What is more likely to cause those blowouts, and to have caused waste up to now, is the misconduct of the Mayor, some small part of which has already led to his being penalised by NCAT. It's clear that under a more competent mayor, less contemptuous o Inner West Council under its present leadership will inevitably increase its rates or cut services. Services in my area have already noticeably declined in quality and amount. No amount of pretending otherwise by those responsible will change that. Deamalgamation offers the only hope of change at present, and as the threats of increased rates are bogus, there is no reason not to prefer to deamalgamate.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Want council better aligned with community priorities at more local level
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	We are currently paying more for less

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	We are experiencing an unprecedented threat to the quality of life in the inner west and cannot afford not to have the support of our representatives to act decisively and swiftly on key issues. The reduction in cost brought by the amalgamation has proven to be shortsighted. The cost-benefit has been experienced as a degradation far too consequential to our area. It's high time that our council act on the wishes of the constituency that is engaged in the serious threat to the long term health of the population. We are not in a third world environment, but we are surely sliding ever closer to similar levels. We need to be listened to now.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	We may pay less now - but we also get less at a community level. The utter rubbish that has been built in our area since amalgamation has been appalling. I don't believe the previous council world have allowed this to happen. Smaller region, greater focus on looking after it and its people
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	We need a local focus with local government. The inner west has gone to rack and ruin since amalgamation. Poorly run with no actual benefits.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	We need our original service back at the regular cost prior to amalgamation
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	We need our own council back for our services to be back the way they were.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	We need to get rid of the large council structure and go back to our local municipal Councils pre-amalgamation. Large central government needs needs to be eliminated. Political parties need to be banned from Council. There is no place for party politics in Local Council. Big Council is costing ratepayers more money. Council needs to get back to it's core issues, waste collection, road and footpath maintenance, street lighting, parks and gardens, etc. We are getting little value for our ratepayer dollars with this big council structure.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	We voted for de-amalgamation. Why are we even having this survey? Pointless as I'm sure the decision has been made regardless of what we say

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	We voted to de-amalgamate. Please carry out the wishes of the majority of residents or face the consequences in the ballot box next time around.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	We want more local representatives.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	We went through this. I letterboxed talked to residents - no one round here was for the status quo.. The council functions as a Labor outpost - staffing, policy alignment. We should look to great cities instead. I want better access to council, much better service (current planning dept is woefully indifferent to residents). This whole process has been managed prejudicially - the business case was clearly biased against demerger. The mayor has not respected local democracy. Executive staff turnover has been high. The State Govt said it'd fund demerging. That's not in the survey.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	We were better off previously and can regain that situation eventually after de-amalgamation
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	we were fine before amalgamation - and didn't ask for it
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	What business case would the the Minister be receiving? It is not stated but I have to answer the question. I object to a business case based on Morrison Low data and compiled by the current IWC Mayor & ALP Councillors who don't want to demerge. IWC needs to commission an independent business case completed by an expert in local government matters.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	What concerns me is that 70% of Council doesn't want de-amalgamation...perhaps loss of power, status, salaries? Yet they are the people briefing the consultants on what to prepare. In business I have seen this trick sone too many times to 'evaluate' but ensure failure of the project. John Howard's Republican referendum, which was designed to fail. That's how I see this process. Make it as hard as possible for de-amalgamation to proceed.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Will of the people! Democratic process respected

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Y
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Yes, it is a good process to plan a business case before such a move so the right decision can be made weighing up te benefits and costs.
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	You stuffed up my swimming club I have no respect for you monkeys anymore, my 8 year old sister could do a better job. MARRICKVILLE council was one of the Best bring it back
Submit business case for a de-amalgamation	Your Q6a in this survey is very unhelpful, it mentions a cost to ratepayers,but you do not tell us whether that inappropriate quarter cost, an annual cost, a one-off cost. This survey is therefore seriously flawed!11
Submit business case for de-amalgamation	'Cause that's what we voted for and I still think that is best for us
Submit business case for de-amalgamation	Because before the de-amalgamation we had a better service.
Submit business case for de-amalgamation	For reasons that become fairly obvious if my other responses to this survey are considered.
Submit business case for de-amalgamation	I do not like the mergers and did not have a say about it.
Submit business case for de-amalgamation	I voted yes for demerger at the Council elections and I think it should be undertaken asap. 63% of those who voted at the election agreed with a demerger and I believe nothing has changed in my mind since then. Please just do it!
Submit business case for de-amalgamation	I'm a great believer in the meaning of local! I would like to see the number of local councillors return to what it was before amalgamation. I would like the frequency of council meetings to increase so my local issues get proper attention. I would like to ensure that councils services are not outsourced or reduced. I believe real resident involvement is more likely under de-amalgamation.
Submit business case for de-amalgamation	No advantages, only losses
Submit business case for de-amalgamation	Preferred services and structure prior to de-amalg.

Q8a. Is your preference that Council submit a business case to the Minister supporting de-amalgamation, or remain as IWC?	Q8b. Why do you say that?
Submit business case for de-amalgamation	That is how I voted and have not changed my decision for what is best. Bring back all 3.
Submit business case for de-amalgamation	The amalgamation has not worked. Expectations have not been realised. A sound business case would highlight the shortcomings of amalgamation. Residents should have had input into preparing a business case and not asked for comment on a document that uses unfounded assumptions a the end of the process. This business case does not represent the ideas, needs and experiences of the community.
Submit business case for de-amalgamation	The extra bureaucracy of the amalgamated council has just been demonstrated by eight attending support staff in evidence at the mayor's recent address in Balmain Town Hall That event seemed poorly advertised but at least the audience outnumbered the staff.
Submit business case for de-amalgamation	The Inner West Council is dreadful now. Its not doing things for the community first and foremost e.g. reducing public meetings by 50%
Submit business case for de-amalgamation	The people voted to de-amalgamate!! Please respect the vote.
Submit business case for de-amalgamation	The people voted to de-amalgamate, please respect the vote
Submit business case for de-amalgamation	This question should not have been included in this survey. It is in effect an attempt at another plebiscite by stealth. If these figures can be trusted the costs will be outweighed by the advantages – return to effective service levels, greater participation and democracy.
Submit business case for de-amalgamation	We are not currently adequately represented. We can now have the benefit of savings by certain functions working across all council areas for a cost: benefit ratio.

Table 3

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? REMAIN
Its been 6 years since Council amalgamation was authorised by the State. JUST EMBRACE AND LIVE WITH IT Whilst there are strong emotive issues such as "A right to self-determination and the removal of forced amalgamation"

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? REMAIN
It would be very unlikely that an Efficient, Cost effective, Financially viable business case, could be put for De-amalgamation, for which **the Ratepayers will have t o pay.**
Not at this stage as I still consider the de-merger/de-amalgamation to be the correct way to go and have yet been convinced otherwise.
Yes, stop wasting time, man power, resources on finding excuses to not get on with a proper amalgamation. Scrap the 'business case'. If necessary, spend the money on hiring somebody who has experience in company consolidation (no, definitely not some fancy named consulting firm) – more like someone like me. I worked for the World's largest Airline and Logistics company, closing offices, depots and warehouses throughout Asia to streamline processes. Saved millions of dollars.
Please do not waste rate payers' money, spend the money where it is needed.
Yes, make it v. good!
A well written document. Executive Summary (p3) summaries the issues clearly "... the benefits of deamalgamation are largely unquantifiable and subjective"
Alot of anger will result if there is a de-amalgamation De-amalgamation is a blatant waste of money Make the inner west the BEST, for everyone
An absolutely stupid thing to do, a waste of rate payers' money.
Anyone voting for the de-amalg is a goose
As a resident I hear nothing in the community about how bad the 2016 amalgamation was. Who's complaining? I am very much against the idea of deamalgamating. Bureaucracy costs way too much.
As a resident of the IWC area I am happy with the current governing of our new LGA. As a Marrickville resident I'm confused about the rate increase of $87. Will the $87 increase be per quarter or per year?
Amalgamation was great. More accountability is great
Brevity started as a referendum with rate payers not understanding the full implications of the issue and politicians purporting supposed 'benefits' to the community. This echoes the same path. Do not do this. We are an inner west community, if there are issues in communicating the local voice then work specifically on that - not some tangential goal which has no measurable benefits to the issue you are trying to solve. If you are serious, spend the money we will lose on developing specific programs to fund a community voice within the council. This is a better idea than deamalgamation. If you can't consider alternatives, you have ulterior motives and you are not being honest. Perhaps you wish for less governance so you can develop the crap out of the inner west like your neighbouring councils hmmm? The pro-deamalgamation campaign has no grasp on what it means to be a govt organisation or the long term impacts to the future sustainability of the 'councils'. What about ongoing costs, costs of interactions between councils, loss of efficiency in capital programs/contractors, loss of governance or due process or oversight, duplication of effort across councils. The yes argument is weak and reeks of people wanting to be kings and queens rather than actually addressing the issues of the rate payers base.

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? REMAIN
Can the process be stopped now? As the costing show this will cost more at every stage it's just a matter of how much costs the Council think the community will tolerate. I don't want any of it. Get on with the core work of Council.
Complete waste of money considering all the planning which has occurred since the merger
Consider people went into the polling booths uneducated on what they voted for. Because I was not prepared for that question to appear on my ballots that day An 80% turn out for voting on Election Day is not a high success rate so you can't consider that a correct sample of people
Consultation and engagement prior to the Deamalgamation Poll was poor, and the result is unreliable. It is important that IWC pauses and properly communicates the high cost, disruption and risk. The Deamalgmation Poll should have included the costs, risks and benefits as part of the poll question. Instead it was shared via a soggy pamphlet in the middle of a pandemic. The vote was understandably a protest vote against the State Government forced amalgamations, but people will be shocked at the high cost and reduction in service levels. This is misguided Pursuing the de-amalgamation in light of the ML report and data would be an abrogation of leadership. This will be an unmitigated disaster.
Costly, time wasting and stupid The voting option on Election Day was set up to favour donkey vote for yes vote
Costs should have been provided upfront before vote was taken, as well as possible implications
Council would be better served focussing on core council priorities rather than niche activist concerns.
De amalgamation Is a big mistake. I have not seen any strong case for doing de amalgamation at all.
De- amalgamation is waste of money The referendum question for De- amalgamation was very confusing and not ciear Therefore people don't fully understand the question
De-A is a waste of money
Deamalagation should not occur. Focus needs to switch to accept the amalgamated coucnil as it it and work for the residents on roads, rubbish and creating a truly Inner West identity now
De-amalgamation is not supported and should not proceed
De-amalgamation is nothing but an ego trip that will throw away public money that should be users to improve services and infrastructure for residents. Get off your high horses, get over your historical grievances and get on with the job of running a council.
De-amalgamation poor choice
Deamalgamation seems to only benefit political electors
De-amalgamation serves no benefits to residents, only to a vocal minority who's factions have lost political influence which has resulted in improvements across the area.
De-amalgamation should not proceed.

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? REMAIN
De-amalgamation will be a disaster for all of us. Higher rates and worse services
De-amalgamation will create additional cost to the rate payer.
De-amalgamation would not benefit the community
De-amalgamation, with full business case and costs, should be taken to next council election.
De-amalgation is totally wrong-headed and can only have been dreamed up by naive idiots in the Greens (and I vote Green). The business case shows that all we will get is a reduction of services, with a reduced base to develop from, (while paying more) while more councillors can play Democracy
Despite what the proponents of de-amalgamation may claim, there is no overwhelming public support for proceeding with the business case. A 60% vote in favour from an 80% turnout for a poll in which the pros and cons were not widely advertised is not conclusive. Given the lack of popular support, Council should abandon preparation of the business case and focus on the task for which they were elected, namely representing the residents of the Inner West, not three councils which no longer exist.
Dies not demonstrate any real benefit, doesn't say how risks would be managed, overall a weak case not well developed and dies not provide any compelling reason to deamalganate Annoyed that Council is already wasting money on this business case
Do not de-amalgamate
Do not de-amalgamate
Do not de-amalgamate
Do not de-amalgamate!
Do not de-amalgamate! Only seek feedback from the ratepayers, not tenants As a highly tenated area, tenants who do not incur the additional cost uet get all the benefit from services do not pay the bills
Do not de-amalgamate. Do not undo the progress made.
Do not de-amalgamate. Focus council resources on services to the community instead
Do not do it
Do not do it . You are wasting rate payers money I am sure if voters were told the costs of deamalagamation when voting they would not have voted to split up The vote was misleading because we were not given all the facts It's unclear the justification for splitting the councils We need Better leadership to stop this wasteful proposals from happening. Your leadership team should be fired
Do not do it. I'd prefer the costs of deamalgamation to be used for service delivery of Inner West Council
Do not proceed with de-amalgamation.
do not proceed with this waste of money

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? REMAIN
Do not pursue de-amalgamation !
Do not submit it - it's a waste if council money.
Do not want deamalgamation Do not want demalgamation Do not want demalgamation Do not want demalgamation Do not want demalgamation
Do not waste any further resources on building a business case
Do not waste either rate payers or tax payers' dollars for what is largely a politically motivated exercise.
Do not waste everyone's time with de amalgamation and the expense.
Don't deamalgamate
Don't de-amalgamate
Don't de-amalgamate
Don't de-amalgamate the IWC.
Don't do it
Don't do it
Don't do it
Don't do it
Don't do it
Don't do it
Don't do it
Don't do it
Don't do it If you do, don't reduce services
Don't do it and stop talking about it. Just get on with doing a good job of operating under the current model and making Inner West Council one of the best places to live in Sydney.
Don't do it it will be a backward step
Don't do it!
Don't do it! Throwing our money in the bin.
Don't do it, save our money
Don't do it.
Don't do it.
Don't do it. Don't do it. Don't do it. Don't do it. Don't do it.

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? REMAIN
Don’t do it. It’s a waste of time. It’s a waste of money. The inner west is better off with the inner west council.
Don’t do it. Focus on delivering good service as Inner West Council rather than diverting time and money for something that will achieve no tangible benefits.
Don’t do it. For once, do something that isn’t designed to protect wealthy homeowners
Don’t do it..
Don’t give in to a noisy minority who clearly know nothing about efficiencies in government and will be the first to complain when they receive poorer service.
Don’t proceed with it.
Don’t submit it
Don’t submit it More cost for the same service. Why would I vote for that? Seems to be an ego move for internal issues in the council Hire better management in the current council Improve efficiency in the current council. Reduce cost to serve and improve output. No trust in the current system let Alone 3 new broken systems for no money. DO NOT DO IT
Don’t submit it please
Don’t submit it!
Don't de-amalgamate
Don't de-amalgamate
Don't de-amalgamate - it serves to benefit to residents or ratepayers only increased cost or reduced serviceses.
dont de-amalgamate!
Don't deamalgamate. I am strongly against this. It is a massive waste of resources. Look at Brisbane city council. Study and replicate what other large councils do well.
Don't deamalgamate. It makes no sense and all the people campaigning for it are clueless
Dont deamalgate
dont do it
Dont do it
don't do it
Don't do it.
Don't do it. Look to the future not the past. Thew cliche that you can not unscamble eggs is a truisnm in this case. the performance of council is good and does not warrant a nostalgic return to an era that no longer exists.
Don't waste any more time or money on it

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? REMAIN
Don't waste any more time or money on it.
Don't waste money unnecessarily
Don't waste people's money . Economies of scale Enough politicians without more wanna be to kick Start career
Each and every proposed case projects a deficit and rate rise for the same or worst level of service? Why would any sane resident agree to this
Enough money and effort has been spent on this, it should be buried and management and leadership focus directed to improving operations under the current structure.
Every dollar or man hour spent on this is one that could and should be spent on servicing residents and our community. We also risk losing talented, experienced staff, who understandably don't want to work somewhere with such low job security where they don't even know if their employer will exist in a couple of years. Not to mention all the work they do on plans, strategies, and projects for our community that risk being torn apart and rendered useless if we have to go back into administration to demerge. Those
Extrememly unhappy that this is being considered. It is completely unnecessary. COUNCIL should be concentrating on its core functions and leave the current format alone.
Firmly in the 'do not de-amalgamate' camp If there are issues with the current Inner West Council, it would be better to address those issues rather than pull the amalgamated council apart
Focus on continue providing services as is. Stop talking about changing for changing sake
Focus on fixing the roads
Focus on what councils should be doing and stop wasting rate payers money on trying to de-amalgamate Put ego's aside and get on with things As a rate payer we have seen the quality of the services we have paid for drop - where if the council managed this properly it should have made it more effecient
Forget it , stop wasting our money on ‘the case’
Further evidence needs to be provided on the benefits that amalgamation has brought with it. I cant see this in the Information provided
Get on with running inner west.
Get the gm to do their job properly
Given that the vote to deamalgamate was non-binding and we now know the cost of deamalgamation I suggest that the whole process of deamalgamtion be stopped in its tracks.
Given the current council operates efficiently and covers a large area of the inner west it should remain
Glad that the business case was done to allow informed decision making by residents. Obviously, from the findings, it really isn’t a feasible option to proceed with de-amalgamation Feels like Brexit, we shouldn’t do it.

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? REMAIN
Go through this process without spending a huge amount. There is nothing that makes sense to action - it is all perceived.
Greater costs with de-amalgamation and not necessarily better service
How else can I oppose de-amalgamation? Where I can provide feedback against de-amalgamation. Why do we need more councillors? The current number seem to be doing fine? How can you justify charging households more for doing less? Especially with risong mortgages, increased cost if living and stagnant wages??
How much money and time did it cost Council to commission the de-amalgamation business case? These funds could have been better spent elsewhere.
I absolutely oppose deamalgamation
I agree that de-amalgamation would substantially increase costs and therefore rates. I therefore can't support it.
I am angry that a passion project of certain Greens members could end up costing the council millions and will only increase my rates
I am not persuaded by the business case Cost increase without good and useful benefits in de-amalgamation doesn't help Living cost is already increased by lot. Additional council rate only make things worse
I am sorry and angry that many thousands of dollars have been spent on developing this business case as a result of a referendum that was so poorly executed.
I am strongly opposed to it.
I am very against de-amalgamation and would prefer the present system.
I appreciate the work done to date to determine and communicate the service level and financial costs of de-amalgamation
I believe that de-amalgamation potentially plays to the NSW govt's interests, which is not necessarily in the community's interests and I strongly oppose de-amalgamation.
I believe we have a good structure as Inner West Council Of course things can always improve but my dealings with council has been good. I have a worry what any changes will affect staff & services Th need to fund de-amalgamation, extra costs for rate payers
I can see no clear benefit to residents to deamalgamate
I can't believe some residents in the IW are that delusional that this is being pursued. Move on and get over it
I didn't even know I had to vote on this issue when I turned up to the council election. I felt there was no publicity and no information available before residents had to vote. I felt unprepared to make such an important decision.
I do not support Council de-amalgamation.
I do not support deamalgamation

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? REMAIN
I do not think that the response rate to the poll is representative of community views. There was little information about the question in the lead up to Election Day. The question was not worded clearly - I am a tertiary educated professional with English as a first language and I struggled to understand it. I am not convinced that there was a fair opportunity for people to understand what was being asked or what the implications would be. There was no information put out about the increase to rates or the trade A full conflicts of disclosure should be provided by the leaders of the demerger campaign should to identify any vested interests they or any family or close associates may have as a result of the demerger
I don't believe that the majority who voted for deamalgamation understand the true financial impact it will have on residents in The Inner West
I don't think enough time was given for people to consider their opinion prior to the December vote. I am strongly against de-amalgamation.
I don't want to deamalgamate and the business case doesn't convince me otherwise
I don't support deamalgamation. I was annoyed at the last election when one of the points suggested in favour of the deamalgamation was that it would not cost the residents any money as it would be funded by the NSW Govt. As we are all residents of NSW it does end up costing all of us. Stop wasting money.
I don't think it is in best interests of average rate payer. Its all about politics. Not common sense.
I feel frustrated that this might mainly be happening because it suits the councillors.
I feel Marrickville résidence don't fully understand the cost involved and the amount of organisation necessary to go back to the old system , which to me is not going forward but backwards
I feel this is an agenda of people who aren't living in the real workd and don't understand how much things cost or how they work.
I find all this as a waste of time and my money
I find it unbelievavble that Council is proposing de amalgamation, there doesnt seem yo be too many positive outcomes but rather a lot of risks and costs to ratepayers, I am not happy this is even being considered by Council. There is clearly a push by Council to drive de amalgamation at the expense of residents. The business case has been mis represented to drive a desired outcome with disregard for wht is best for the communuty.
I hate to think how much Council spent on getting the business case done and that was not a good use of my rates. I also believe this is being pushed for political gain not the community benefit.
I have expressed my strong opinion not to reverse amalgamation and would prefer the council to stop spending money on consultants to assess options and make cost-benefit calculations. These funds could be invested with very high returns into some landscape management on Campbell St. I understand the options needed to be investigated and if this is going to be progressed with, some very good change management and public communication needs to happen that clearly outlines what the benefits for this would be.
I just cannot see any business case for deamalgamation.

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? REMAIN
I may not have agreed with the original amalgamation but we're here now Any decision to devolve must stand on its own merits "We want our old council names back" is not an argument
I oppose it.
I prefer to leave it as Inner West Council
I promise to vote tactically against any councillor who supports de-amalgamation.
I question the experience and capability of the councillors supporting it.
I read the detailed reports provided which set out what looks like common sense, that an amalgamated council can take on large projects and issues more effectively than multiple small agencies
I refer you to the letterbox flier which highlights four 'significant costs and potential risks'.
I regret my support of the deamalgamation in 2021. I think the “for” case pushed an anti-state government message - ie, being forced - which resonated w many in the inner west. However, this was not based on a sound business case. In some ways this is like a mini-Brexit, which was a disaster.
I see no business case for me to review Newtown should be returned to one council Newtown was split into multiple councils pre -amalgamation which is not ideal This amalgamation proposal is about more councilors not more service Pre amalgamation Service was already rubbish
I strongly believe that it would be a worse situation for inner west community I do not wish to return to Leichhardt council
I strongly do not support it. Get on with supporting the community rather than wasting your time on this.
I strongly oppose de-amalgamation and unfortunately the case for opposing de-amalgamation was not made at the last election in terms of the election signage and promotional material that was put up around council We are in a cost of living crisis. Ratepayers cannot absorb council rate hikes There is no sound reasoning for de-amalgamation
I think given the impacts of COVID over the last few years it now makes more sense to remain as Inner West Council in order to be able to afford the types of services our residents need and expect.
I think it is politically based and won’t achieve better outcomes for residents.
i think it will be cause for more stress and instability is not what is needed in current times
I think I've made myself clear, your argument is "we can do a worse job for more money", I'm strongly aggainst that proposal
I think most people had no idea what they were really voting for at the election. Business case needs to be very clear on the downside for residents and the community of this de-amalgamation
I think this whole thing is ludicrous and deeply humiliating!

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? REMAIN
I thought the pros and cons of the options and the key assumptions were clearly and concisely documented.
I understand a majority voted for de-amalgamation but fundamentally I believe there was a significant level of misinformation. On countless occasions I heard multiple councillor candidates summarise false benefits of de-amalgamation and false risks of remaining amalgamated. I also believe it should have been clearly identified to residents that the candidates are in my opinion not impartial given it gives them a higher probability to become a councillor under de-amalgamation.
I understand the Yes vote attained 63% of the vote. However.. I did not see any No campaign posters, only Yes. And whist the Morrison Low report as circulated, I don't think it was as concise as The current 2page summary
I was annoyed by the Liberal state government forcing council amalgamation. However I now like been identified as part of Inner West LGA.
I would be very disappointed to see Inner West Council de-amalgamated. I would see it as a waste of public money which is infuriating when there is so much important work to be doing. I really wish people would stop raising this question and focus on the critical services the Council is providing.
I would encourage all decisions based on truth to be observed and not a minority group with a loud voice getting their way
I would like to see the energy spent by residents and councillors on de-amalgamation activities put into improving existing services such as footpaths, roads and parks. For instance, there is not enough attention paid to weeds or rubbish. Improvements rather than separation and blame.
I would like to have seen the modelling done to support amalgamation, as i belive it was done by the same company that is now presenting the de-amalgamation case. Specifically, were the claimed costs and benefits then what ultimately realised? In other words, hgow much confidence can we have in this busniess case?
I would prefer the funds were used to improve council areas such as walkability, upgrade Newtown junction, playgrounds rather than this
I would support better communication and education for the community about how amalgamation has benefited the LGA and what the cost of deamalgamation means in real terms. Eg could the $180 million cover the cost of a new library or park. When I was discussing the poll with my brother, he indicated he would vote for deamalgamation because he wasn't happy with the process undertaken to amalgamate. I am concerned that people are voting in favour of deamalgamation because of their discontent with the way this came about, rather than the outcome itself.
I'm amazed that so many people voted in the poll to de amalgamate I hope council makes an objective decision based on advice you've obtained and doesn't submit a business case to de amalgamate Leadership would be not proceeding with de amalgamate
If an argument for deamalgamation is that Inner West Council provides fewer councillors per resident than the previous councils, could this not be addressed in the Inner West Council by an

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? REMAIN
increased councillor-resident ratio (with revised wards if necessary), rather than by de-amalgamating, which seems a very inefficient option?
If any public resources have been spent on the de-amalgamation business case, this is corruption and waste of public funds and should be prosecuted
If it goes forward we will be spending money for no real improvement in services.
If the council can find the money to deamalgamate then it should be spent on improving services.
If the vote has included the actual costs to residents, I don't think the de-amalgamation vote would have been 67% but far lower. People never wanted to pay more in the first place
If there are significant issues since the amalgamation, this has not been communicated to the Inner West council residents.
If this proceeds, please assess services on a case by case basis. For example, libraries that are integrated across the 3 is a great benefit to the community. It expands the catalogue on offer. If you proceed, perhaps do another survey on which services to separate and which to keep together. There is precedent for this type of hybrid approach. Please look at the Tri-Borough set up between Westminister, Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and Hammersmith in the UK.
I'm amazed that so many people voted to de-amalgamate. Perhaps it depends on which Council you were originally being managed by. In my case, it was Ashfield Council which was an inept, corrupt horror show.
I'm yet to be convinced by any business case that it is worth pursuing
Inner West Council have sent out a 'case for de-amalgamation'. It states that de-amalgamation will provide 'some perceived service level improvements. There would be no actual improvements. Service levels improved since amalgamation. The document states that council rates and costs will increase by more than double if there were a de-merger. There are still libraries, great libraries in fact, in Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville. There are no differences in the policies, needs, etc between these th
Inner West Council is a loud voice. Much less so if diluted down into three councils
It aint broke. Dont fix it
It demonstrates very clearly that de-amalgamation is not in the best interests of citizens
It doesn't add up. There is no real benefit.
It has been produced in a devious way to further an agenda
It is a complete waste of money
It is a ridiculous proposition to spend the $ undoing all the amalgamation work done The costs are too high to change now
It is a waste of time and money.
It is an exercise in additional costs to no guaranteed improvement of service levels.

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? REMAIN
It is futile and a waste of money that could be spent on other community benefits, and I doubt that the State will agree to underwrite de-amalgamation whatever the cost.tion
It is not commercial savy to de-amalgamate Invest in automation and process improvements from the centralisation of council's to provide more value to your customers
It is of interest to note and I hope folks actually read it before making submissions. People clearly voted without actually reading the information provided at the time.
It is unfortunate that the data now provided was not available when the bland yes/no vote was taken. The perceived benefuts being bandied around at the time would have been put into perspective and the real economic issues would have had a direct bearing on the result
It is unsatisfactory The amalgamation seems to have provided cohesion in the area and I would for it to remain
It makes absolutely no sense to de amalgamate
It makes more of a case supporting no change This isn't important to the community it seems more important to political representatives than what council should be about We need to give inner west council a chance to get into the grove now that it is amalgamated
It should not have gotten this far and work should stop on it.
It starkly shows the folly of pursuing de-amalgamation at great risk and without overwhelming support from the community (62.5%).
It took years to get here and to spend time undoing it all seems like a poor use of resources
It under-estimates the disruption involved in going back to 3 seperate councils It underestimates the cost in going back to 3 councils
It would be a costly tragedy to de amalgamate and would achieve none of the said goals of those advocating de amalgamation Look at examples across Australia and see the great advances larger councils can achieve by virtue of their bargaining power when sourcing infrastructure and resources.
It would be a shame if the de-amalgamation were to go ahead. I would definitely look at moving out of the area to the City of Sydney or Northern Beaches. We should never succumb to populist rhetoric by a select few in the LGA and Council.
It would be a total waste of money!
It would be good to hear from the youth of the Inner West and not just the views of property owners
It would be illogical, costly and counterproductive to de-amalgamate. IWC is not perfect but service implementation is as good, if not better than before.
It would have been good to see this before the vote

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? REMAIN
It would just be common sense to not deamalgamate and continue with the current system. It beggars belief as to why the council would want to add extra cost to the ratepayer under the current economic circumstances.
It’s a big waste of time and money
It’s a complete waste of time and money. Collect the rubbish. Fix the roads and make the parks nice. That’s all you have to do. The rest is just a waste of our rates.
It’s a waste of public money and mine
It’s a waste of tax payer money It’s a waste of council time and effort The outcome will be lacklustre The result will be 3 financially unstable councils
It’s a waste of time and money
It’s a waste of time.
It’s great to see the costs and risks outlined. The pool did not call this out, which meant people who voted did so without understanding the consequences for them and others.
It’s idiotic and pointless!
It’s not a business case! It’s a price gouge by greedy councillors who do nothing. The business case was the amalgamation - and we did it..
It’s stacking clear costs against basically no gains - I believe it accurately captures the difficulty of de-amalgamating
It’s stupid It’s inefficient It is not in the best interest of local community It’s a distraction from the council actually serving the community Don’t do it
It’s such a shame that people are so myopic in their understanding of the issues and their reluctance towards change. That doesn’t mean I don’t think council needs to improve their service standards. Especially from a consistency perspective. Some council staff are fantastic, others woeful.
It's a pointless activity. Tantamount to brexit
Its a stupid idea to de amalgamate. Just get on with providing services to the community
It's a waste of time and money
It's a waste of time and money. The council should be directing resources to current issues not deamalgamation There will be such a big waste of money if the council deamalgamates . For example signage, stationary... This money is better spent on service provision
It's been six years since the amalgamation, things are fine. It's time to move on.
It's not based on sound financial reasoning, more that people in Leichhardt not wanting to be associated with the other side of Parramatta Road.
It's not worth it Don't go through with it What's done is done, leave them amalgamated

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? REMAIN
It's ridiculous
Its ridiculous, do not proceed.
It's stupid
Just change the borders of Inner West Council to remove the "vocal" minority who want de-amalgamation.
Just curious can we give dobroyd point to canada bay council instead?
Just don't do it Shared services between separate councils only way to help
Just don't do it. Simples.
Just drop it and move on.
Just drop the whole idea and get back to focussing on what you do well now and make the most of the postive aspects of each area or suburb
Just focus on improving current iwc
just get on with your job and stop wasting money on this
Just stop wasting money on this. Accept the amalgamation and move on! Focus your efforts on servicing the community instead of you own agenda
Just stop wasting our money and get on with the actual work
Just that as a fair and reasonable person if I truly believed it would help the local people in repairs to dangerous roads and footpaths and dangerous trees and that costs would be more reasonable when applying for a tree application or a DA then I may of consider it. But when it takes 10 days for a bin to be picked up. Also and most importantly the unacceptable poor and pathetic tactics employed by council of o send out letters and pamphlets out to arrive the day after voting closes or a meeting is to be held.no with these kind of tactics why would we want more corrupt councils to put their heads together.
Just TOO EXPENSIVE !!
Large organisations (public and private) in this country have a tendency to embark on ambitious and costly strategic plans. These plans are often reversed and re-implemented by successive administrations. This is the very definition of wastage and is a blight on the strategic outcomes. It would be a shame to see IWC head down this path. It will display poor leadership and lead to increased rates with no tangible benefits.
Let the whole concept of de-amalgamation go. Remain as is, and focus on being the best Inner west can achieve so much more in the future by staying together I am concerned that aspiring politicians who cut their teeth in local government see more opportunities for themselves with de-amalgamation
Let's not waste the money on the business case

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? REMAIN
Looks just like every other piece of Done-Deal-Darcy feelgoodery. Option (A) - Big sh** sandwich, (B) medium sh** sandwich, (C) Inclusive and Diverse sh** sandwich. But always missing - Option (D) - The NO-sh** option.
Many people have rose colored glasses i do not accept the premise that even if deamalgamated services, especially corporate and support services could not be shared across the three councils.
More councils and councillors is silly - there is more than adequate representation now
No case has been made for it. I can't see any benefit in unwinding the situation, especially as the benefits have not been given.
No comments there is nothing to be achieved
no further comments
no further commetns
No in favour at all. I question the motives of those councillors in favour. Is it about power or empire building? The case laid out for de-amalgamation seems questionable in my opinion.
No it just seems like a waste of time now, spending more money on consultants because of earlier politics
No large corporation / council is perfect. Let's not go back to the 1860's - it might feel safe and easy but it's never going to be better.
No not really.
No!
No, it's a crazy idea.
No, just please don't do it
No, more open communication when lodging a request with Council would be a good step forward
No, thank you
No.
No.
No.
No. As previously stated I am satisfied with the present status Of the amalgamated council.
No. Just don't waste any more money in going backwards just to suit the whims of certain individuals on Council.
No. Please get on with rates harmonisation This is the time not to listen to the squeaky wheel that is deamalgamation campaigners.
None

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? REMAIN
Not needed, deamalgamstion is a waste of effort and money
Nothing but a why bother.
One should always look towards the future. The past is dead. Forget it
Only that I condemn in the strongest terms those Counsellors who thought a brexit style vote was a sensible way to address a complex issue. I would like to know who they were.
Only that I think we're better off being amalgamated - my experience has been that council has responded promptly and communicated frequently.
Only to reiterate again it's a stupid idea to deamalgamate
Other than I'm really cranky this is even being discussed? Then no.
Pleas don't proceed with any de-amalgamation
Please do a cost/benefit analysis and understand the economic and social benefit of de-amalgamation is minuscule.
Please do no de-amalgamate
Please do not de merge
Please do not de-amalgamate
Please do not de-amalgamate the council!
Please do not do this. We are fundamentally the same types of suburbs in the same city. Stick with efficiency of scale.
Please do not go ahead. This whole thing has been a waste of everyone's time
Please do not proceed with de amalgamation. I feel that this is an unnecessary change With no tangible advantages to return to the seperate councils.
Please do not proceed with de-amalgamation! The business case clearly does not stack up Residents experiencing mortgage pressure do not need the extra financial strain.
Please do not push ahead with this. Please stay amalgamated
Please do not waste any further time on this and focus on day to day running of IWC
Please do not waste rate payers money, spend the money where it is needed.
Please do not waste tax payers time and money on any further deliberations about de-amalgamation Staff well being and retention is at risk if you proceed any further with de-amalgamation I think if those who voted for de-amalgamation in 2021 had seen the costs involved they may have voted differently If there is any way you can stop the process now and not submit a business case you should do that Continual changes, particularly in the current fiscal and health environments add stress to residents and staff
Please don't do it.

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? REMAIN
Please don’t waste money proceeding. What a joke this whole thing is!
Please don't de-amalgamate
Please don't de-amalgamate ; it will be costly, and we get a more valuable, useful and efficient council amalgamated as Innerwest has proved
Please don't let some blowhards ruin the inner west council
Please don't listen to NIMBYs. We've already wasted enough money on this proposal. Why should we pay more money for less services?
Please don't waste any more of the ratepayers money, enough is enough.
Please don't waste MY money
Please don't waste taxpayers money by de amalgamating.
Please ensure residents are consulted along the way
Please just focus on doing a good job and rely on the expertise of Council staff. The elected Councillors so far have been abysmal.
Please just stop this process, noone knew what they were voting for in the poll, let Council focus on important local issues instead of this absoulute waste of time
Please just stop wasting money with organisational structure and get on with the job of managing the LGA
Please leave it as Inner West Council.
Please no Deamalgamation undoes a lot of hard-won work Inner West is a sensible union, unlike Bayside. Deamalgamate Bayside instead Urban councils should all have populations over 100000 Council boundaries should follow noticable barriers like watercourses, parks or freeways and should not cut through communities
Please publicise cost of poll, deamalgamation campain, number of flyers and trees killed, hours spent of paid council time to discuss undoing this move. I support inner west council please stop debating this issue and focus on real governance
Please stop it. Just stop doing it. This is happening onther our nose and should be stop. Stupid idea
Please stop this nonsence and let Council get back to its core business
Please stop this process now
Please stop wasting tax payers money on a business case that is not a prior issue for the people of the area.
please stop wasting time and expence on this ridiculous exercise
Preference NOT to de-merge

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? REMAIN
Proper NO case was not presented Risks were not debated so people made very un-informed knee jerk rose coloured glass response No local newspaper has reduced level of debate
Put aside the “vote” as non representative, and re-run it with an educational campaign where real data can be shared, such as rate rises, service cuts, increased processing delays can be spelt out.
Put the cost of de amalgamation to the people so they know what it is.
Put the money saved into more bike lanes and active transport options.
really can't believe we are being asked to take this seriously when there are so many other things to progress. embarrassing.
Refer to previous comments
Reinstate bi-yearly council cleanup Fines for dumped rubbish Improve service for cleaning up rubbish left on pathways
Ridiculous to de-amalgamate because it would mean increased costs to council and rate payers and less access to council wide facilities
Rumours abound that it has been written to support the wishes of the Mayor and staff to maintain the status quo That said, it appears rigorous enough
Scrap it and tell Councillors and senior managment to get on with their job. They could start by fixing the potholes next to the new cycleway. Their is too much emphasis on Council showing off with press releases, photo opportunities etc. If they put in the same effort to actually do the job, this survey would not be happening.
See attached submission
Seems like thr cost of de-amalgamation vastly outweighs the benefits. The survey just completed gives the impression the decision to de-amalgamate has already happened and now it is just about what method. Thete shoykd have been a question early on about whether you supported it, not just whether you voted for it previously.
Seriously, just increase the number of councillors to the number pre-amalgamation but distribute the new ones based on ward population.
Should not cost more that it already has to amalgamate. What a complete waste of money in the first place
Shouldn't proceed
spend the time and money on something actually worthwhile
Stay amalgamated & if deamlagamed then costs should not go up beyond 5%
Stay as the Inner West council
Stay as the inner west! Do no de-amalgamate

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? REMAIN
Still unsure why this has even been asked of the community. I believe the original vote was 'yes' due to lobbying of people most likely with vested interests and not in the interests of local population.
Stop de amalgamation No benefits identified Regression of council services with de amalgamation highly probable Greater expense to all citizens with de amalgamation Less councilors/politicians with the amalgamated Inner West Council
Stop it and focus on doing your jobs to improve the inner west for all residents
Stop it. Invite critics to show people it is a bad idea. Work on your collaboration instead of creating a safe island for yourself.
Stop listening to out of touch boomers and start thinking about the area we want to leave to our children Stop wasting money with this exercise
Stop the business case, don't waste the money. There is no a mandate or public demand (50.4% of the voting population only) to proceed with this.
Stop this nonsense. De amalgamation has been a waste of ratepayers money. It's much better now than before.
Stop this now
STOP this process The only people who care about this don't actually know what it means This is going to cost all of us more money and waste councils time
Stop wasting everyone's time
Stop wasting money on this question and get on with collecting rubbish, maintaining local roads, providing local services and looking after green space.
Stop wasting time and money.
Stop wasting time on this.
Stop, just stop. It's not a good idea. It works better now than it did in the previous format. Amalgamation works Please stop wasting money on these De-amalgamation ideas
Take the budget for that and build the pathway from bay run to inner west aquatic centre
Thank you for providing such a clear explanation of the expected outcome from each of the available options
Thank you for pulling together options and providing more info to the community
Thank you for the opportunity to have my say.
Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.
Thanks for creating thw De-amalgamation Business Case flyer, it helped to better understand the consequences of de-amalgamation. The matter is becoming a bit Brexitish!

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? REMAIN
The administration and the council have failed on building a united Council in the last 5 years. Their focus should be on making it work and not pulling the council about. De amalgamation is a waste of time and money
The business case for every aspect of economic and social service delivery is always negative because Aust does not have a sufficient population paying sufficient fees .
The business case needs to outline service levels for each option. The business case needs to compare the amount of money spent on amalgamation, which would be the amount of money wasted if they were to demalgamate. What is the cost of researching demalgmation already.
The business case reflects IWC should not de-amalgamate
The business case seems sound. The small perceived benefits of de-amalgamation do not outweigh the costs, risks and reduction in services
The business case to de-amalgamate confirms this is a retrograde step for the innerwest community. Efforts should be focused on services and initiatives to support the community. The misguided and ideologically driven "de-almagamisers" need to be re-buffed. It is nonsense to promote this retrograde step. They cannot provide any evidence to support their case other than a "vibe" that greater representation equates to better government. A reversion to an increase in the number of elected representatives and platforms for them does not provide this. I suggest this only encourages disruption.
The business case to de-amalgamate is not strong
The business case will likely underestimate true costs of deamalgamation. A cost blow out will end up in further reduced services and costs to residents and possible placement of Council into administration
The business case, and the de amalgamation would be a huge waste of money Inner West now has a clear identity and can be governed as one. H Inner West is more powerful than small LGAs particularly in traffic planning
The case needs to be actively promoted so it is clear to ratepayers and the minister that there are no quantifiable benefits, there is only increased costs which will be passed onto ratepayers, for potentially worse services. The whole proposal is madness.
The cost of de-amalgamation is too high for the perceived benefits that and These benefits are are not quantified or accepted
The costs and disadvantages of deamalgamation outweigh the benefits Deamalgamation will be a step backwards, reducing the capacity of Council to deliver key services The consideration of a shared services model was appreciated
The council needs to be upfront with residents of additional costs to them of deamalgamation. If it was I doubt there would be majority support for this change which I think is unnecessary. Service levels for basic things like mowing nature strips, addressing pot holes, option for residents to dispose of food waste should all come as standard in the current model.
The Council needs to honour the results of the December 2021 proposal. The Council needs to present the proposal to the Minister for Local Government that the de-amalgamation go ahead.

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? REMAIN
The Council needs to stop mudding the waters with another survey using increased rate costs to corrupt the original decision.
The council should make very clear to the de-amalg activists the cost and reduced services of de-amalg. The council should be better at touting the benefits of amalgamation. Use City of Sydney as an example - they have the resources to build infrastructure like cyclelanes, improve recycling, etc. Reverting to tinpot small councils would also take years and be so expensive and wasteful.
The de-amalgamation business case makes sense - to de-amalgamate will simply cost residents more and not deliver better services.
The de-amalgamation supports power plays, inefficient resource allocation, money funnelling & promotes individualised opinion.
The down side for Dulwich Hill and Marrickville is that we will have to absorb a far greater share of development due to lack of Heritage plan
The focus on de-amalgamation is a ridiculous distraction, from doing what council is supposed to do. The non-binding plebiscite was based on limited information and designed to appeal to emotion rather than factual evidence. eg cheaper rates, which do not actually play out if we are to maintain current service delivery. Reprinting letterhead, signs etc is massively wasteful and would be money better spent on climate initiates and new facilities etc. I do not appreciate the prospect of having my NSW tax dollars used to pay for spurious de-amalgamation when they could be funding public housing, education and healthcare. I want cousin lot focus on big ideas like how to facilitate upgrading our predominately damp and uncomfortable existing heritage building stock to passive house standard or equivalent, how to remove gas connections from most properties, how to facilitate bi-directional EV charging to properties without car parking spaces, etc. this is a massively wasteful exercise and misses opportunities to do really important things.
The Inner West Council is a great council and I want it to remain as is I live in this LGA because it's a good LGA. I'd strongly consider moving if IWC split up Councillors, get on with doing your job. Dont waste anymore time and money on this. . Further change & transformation will be costly for EVERYONE. After 2.5 years of Covid, further destabilising the community is totally unnecessary.
The Minister for Local Govt forced the amalgamation for economic rationalisation purposes in 2016 on various councils. That same minister needs to ensure that the economic burden of a proposed demerger, whatever the perceived benefits, is not borne by the ratepayer. If that precludes the possibility of de-merger, then so it should be.
The non biding survey should never had happened. Resembles Brexit Asking people who do not have a clue.
The NSW government doesn't have to do anything regardless of what we ask for, so it's useless. Situtation has changed since the vote - interest rates and inflation is way up - would rather not spend the money The business case needs to emphasise how much it will cost individual households - I cannot afford a rate rise
The numbers don’t lie
The original merger was unnecessary and costly. However a demerger will also be expensive with few real benefits

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? REMAIN
The original poll was only 62% in favour we can't go ahead on such a small margin
The poll was deliberately worded to confuse and sway votes to amalgamate. All logic says an amalgamated council is progress with the times, giving a higher level of professionalism to councillors and staff. The larger organisation can achieve economies of scale to lower costs Smaller council areas give opportunity for less qualified people to be councillors and a situation of protecting a small turf
The process is a waste of time and money. Prefer the inner west council get back to focussing on managing the lga and continuous improvements/initiatives for people who live and work here
The proposal yo de-amalgamate was driven by vested interests and only supported because most of the population don't understand the issues and don't care. The only people making a noise about this are those in favour. The rest of us just want council to get in with doing what it does and not waste time on this issue.
The question put to voters about de-amalgamation was so poorly worded I had to read it several times to ensure my vote was no to demerger. I do not know one person who supports a demerger. I believe the results cannot be relied on given how the question was framed and suspect some people have cast an unintended vote for a demerger.
The residents should be given a binding vote.
the same consultancy has prepared the current business case as well as pre-amalgamation Business Cases. it would have been prudent for another consultancy to prepare the current case, or at least for the current Business Case to have been peer reviewed. Nevertheless the report seems comprehensive but as I'm not a finance specialist, it's difficult to appreciate the nuances of the study. There's a lot of inaccessible terminology.
The state government should compensate us for foisting amalgamation in us If you can demonstrate that de-amalgamating will improve things over this unresponsive council then do it as efficiently as possible
The summary I've read makes sense rationally The benefits for de-amalgamation are all about the "feeling" which is dependent on worldview and is contingent and temporal Whilst community feeling is important it shouldn't dominate considered rational analysis and decision making Be curious to know how much de-amalgamation yes voters now have regret given the business case
The summary seems honest enough and strongly tells against de- amalgamation. An equally honest question to put to ratepayers would be " would you support demalgamation if it meant any benefits were vague and unmeasurable and the downsides were certain and quantifiable eg your rates will materially increase?
The whole exercise in considering de-amalgamation is a waste of ratepayers money and should be abandoned as soon as possible.
The whole idea of de-amalgamation should never have been considered. It only received a high vote at the election because ratepayers were not told (or did not understand) the downsides.
There are no tangible or quantifiable benefits identified, very weak case, dont need more councillors and dont want rate increases

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? REMAIN
there does not to appear to be a 'business case'. The 4 stated benefits are at best a feel-good outcome. until de-amalgamation decision is determined, then council and councillors will be unwilling to make major undertakings. if a de-amalgamation is approved, the current council will become a 'lame' council with no mandate to make decisions.
There is no business case
There is no business case to de-amalgamate!
There is no business case to de-amalgamate. How can anyone justify changing the status quo for a scenario resulting in more costs and worse services?
There is no business case, if you want more power to mess with my life run for state election. You won't because you would never survive the public scrutiny.
There is no bussiness case to do this, evrything i have read suggests this is a bad idea
There is no cost benefit or argument to stay as inner west presented. This is a skewed survey
There is no legitimate business case for deamalgamation.
There is no need for such microcosmic levels of government. The Inner-West Council as it is currently constructed does a great job representing the area, and that level of representation will only decrease through de-amalgamation.
There is no single benefit outlined from the business case. Increasing the number of Councillors has been noted as a benefit without any evidence or research to support it.
There must be savings in the current structure
There were unfortunate mistakes in the planning area when the IWC was new. We don't want to go through this all again! Can we know what the distribution was of support for de-amalgamation? If not even across the LGA, what does this mean? Was there any campaign of support for de-amalgamation, and did it represent the issue fairly, or mislead? IWC initiatives like the food recycling program, and the street tree planting, and the web development - are excellent and should be emphasised more. Can you include with the next rate notice a survey with a question about whether people would like their rates to rise? And ask whether they read the Report before they voted in the Referendum? I think the business case should not describe 62.5% as an 'overwhelming majority vote' and should provide more detail about how residents were advised about the issue - i.e. raise the issue of how much confidence we really can have in the outcome.
This entire proposal to de-amalgamate makes me very angry. Council should just get on with the job and stop wasting time, resources efforts on what is a political exercise. A decision was made several years ago to amalgamate, we have seen some efficiencies as a result with no identifiable loss of services we do not need to know go backwards and load more costs onto ratepayers particularly in the current difficult economic climate where we are already heavily impacted by cost of living pressure. ,
This has been a pointless exercise driven by disgruntled ex councillors I love IWC Ashfield council was hopeless!

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? REMAIN
This information was needed before the vote not after
this is a big bit of expensive nonsense - how much has it cost to pay for the first poll, the second poll, now the lawyers and etc people need to get rea!
This is a distraction for the council which needs to concentrate on service delivery
This is a minority view for de amalgamation. The majority oppose or are ambivalent
This is a self serving proposal that will result in poorer outcomes for the community.
This is a terrible idea. Business cases are meant to be able to articulate value. Financial or otherwise. This business case to date has not done that.
This is a waste of time and resources
This is such a waste of ratepayers money
This should be more public
This sould not be pursued and is inappropriate to be considering given how much time has passed since amalgamation. This would be a retrograde solution to a problem that does not exist. It would be an absolute waste of time, money, effort and resources to quell some people's insecurities to change. The collective good is paramount to everyone's equitable access to services within the Inner West Council and should not be taken away.
This survey is skewed towards de-amalgamation. Readers get no information about what it might mean to stay amalgamated or the real costs of de-amalgamation. The vast majority of residents simply want good services for the contributions they make. They aren't interested in the politics that are pushing for de-amalgamation.
This was a folly from the start. Costs will increase or services will decrease. There is no win here, nothing to gain from demerging. Advocates have misled residents with childish campaigns such as 'put local back in local government' for cynical self-gain and obfuscating on the real world costs, especially at a time when cost of living is skyrocketing. Stop wasting my money. Stop wasting money that isn't yours.
Unless the council regains (or gains) the right to self determination when it comes to development, environmental initiatives and local facilities, there is no identifiable benefit
Unnecessary waste of money
Use the money wisely to go forward not backwards Can use some money to celebrate the unique identities of parts of the inner west through art
Waste of money Just appears to be about politics and giving people more power
Waste of money already spent to restructure and rebrand everything
Waste of money de amalgamating
waste of money...don't know why it us even being discussed
Waste of time

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? REMAIN
Waste of time and money
Waste of time and money Process is biased in favour of de-amalgamation
Waste of time and money to go backwards and if deamalgamation does get through it will lead to increased rates and reduced services
waste of time and money. more important to replace all the trees that were allowed to be removed in recent times, and properly manage development
Waste of time and money...
Waste of time money and resources
We are enjoying the lower council rate currently paying and the services provided.
We need a real campaign and hear all sides, de-amalgamation and an amalgamated inner west council. We need people to share their views/work/analysis on both sides so we can make an informed decision based on non biased. We need a better framework around our local democratic process. Where are journalists and their editorials? I'm not making such decision with the level of information I have received to date, all coming from by the very same people who only campaign for the de-amalgamation (with tax-payer money)
We should move on and concentrate on real issues e.g. preserving our environment!
We shouldn't have amalgamated to begin with but to reverse it all and spend more money to me could be better spent to improve the lifestyle and surroundings of living in the inner west
We wasted money amalgamating but it's done. Let's not water more money on this issue any more but instead focus on delivering services.
What instigated this? If we stay as we are will those issues be addressed?
What little has been presented is not business case that supports change. The "do nothing" case has not received Sufficient attention. There is insufficient information about what is meant by "service levels" prior and post amalgamation, and post de-amalgamation. These should be explicitly explained for each of the previously independent councils.
what services would need to be reduced ? presume rate rise is predicted average....what would it be for normal large/small property in suburb Ashfield ?
Whats in the past is done and cost tax payers money, please move on and leave the past behind.
Where is the alternative about focusing on the future rather than trying to re-create a pathetic past? Recreating the past at huge expense, with poor service levels, lack of financial resources, and lack of capability. Get on the job of preparing for the future. If Councillors don't want to focus on the future they should resign or be sacked.
Why break something up that is now working well.
Why undo what has been done
Why waste more money going back, it's just political stunt.

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? REMAIN
Will prefer to maintain the current inner west council status of there is no additional cost to residents
Will the councillors who argued so hard for this ever accept the decision and close this chapter so we can get on with the business of making the inner west an inclusive, safe, sustainable and resilient community where everyone is welcome and can afford to live. Can we please just put this chapter to bed and move on! Or will those provincial elected officials decide to campaign to REALLY deamalgamate and return us to the historic council of BALMAIN! I think Balmain and Leichhardt have very different place identities
With the cost of living so high at the moment why would we want to pay more rates for lesser services,it doesn't make any sense to me.
Would it improve refuse collection and street maintenance? Two services you haven/t mentioned at all, in both of which the current council is severely lacking in my street in Newtown. Heightened by the clear difference in service one street over with City of Sydney.
Yes - all options are 3 - least favoured
Yes - just don't do it
Yes - There was a lack of information prior to the non-binding vote which led to an emotional response with nostalgia for the past. If more information was provided at the time regarding the costs I believe it would have had a different outcome.
Yes, don't do it, keep the status quo
Yes, please scrap this stupid idea.
Yes, stop wasting time, man power, resources on finding excuses to not get on with a proper amalgamation. Scrap the 'business case'. If necessary spend the money on hiring somebody who has experience in company consolidation (no, definitely not some fancy named consulting firm) - more like someone like me. I worked for the World's largest Airlines and Logistics company, closing offices, depots and warehouses throughout Asia to streamline all processes. Saved millions of dollars.
You should prepare business cases to merge IWC with Canada Bay, Burwood and Strathfield Councils - or alternatively with City of Sydney
You're just inventing work for yourselves.
Greater costs with de-amalgamation and not necessarily better service.
One should always look towards the future. The past is dead. Forget it.
Complete waste of money considering all the planning which has occurred since the merger.

Table 4

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? SUBMIT BUSINESS CASE
2 Brand new councils please with a more sustainable number of rate payers in each.

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? SUBMIT BUSINESS CASE
60% of residents voted for demerger IWC must demerge Peter Gainsford needs to get the sack $450,000 salary for Peter Gainsford
A consultant can make a case for any way they are instructed to The people clearly voted to de-amalgamate The State Government forced amalgamation on to people The new Council is not innovate, they have turned into a conservative voice piece for the labour party
A new indepenedent business case should be done. The company that did this one has proven itself inaccurate before.
A proper case needs to developed based on proper costings not the biased material provided to date. It is clear that residents are not being given accurate information as certain elements at council want to retain power. Shame on you
Agreement
All 3 options are going to cost residents money. It is a pity the amalgamation was forced upon the Inner West in the first place The previous smaller Council was generally able to manage costs and be more responsive to residents needs
All such reports have assumptions, methodologies etc. that if changes may change the conclusions. Predicting into the future is very inexact.
All United Nations agendas must be dropped Rate payers have the knowledge and abilities to look after their environment and welfare without foreign interference.
aMALGAMATION SHOULD NEVER HAVE TAKEN PLACE AS IT WAS A LOSE LOSE SITUATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF LEICHHARDT COUNCIL
Amalgamation was a mistake in the first place and was not supported by a majority of residents in 2016. It was imposed on us by a Liberal Government with no real advantages for residents obvious.
as noted, why not original Councils I am always irritated by the City of Sydney "representing" Sydney when it doesn't. Remain it Sydney CBD Council Councillors being more locally may be more easily contacted
Ashfield will definitely benefit from this change.
Assumptions are avoided to look impartial until the are used but not acknowledged. The survey tells me to expect a rates increase between 200 and 400, then puts a value down as 111. Services are not great and never were but at least we had greater sway with the council. Some parts of the case presented by Morrison Low seem hard to believe and are left unjustified, it does not inspire confidence
Be fair in the business case submission, not putting the IW council bias on it. Can chair see it's biased in the way it's presented to residents IW council essential presented 3 options to continue as is. All essential day less services, more cost. Really!!! Stop wasting our money on consultants when the residents already voted. Just do it! to de-amalgamate

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? SUBMIT BUSINESS CASE
Bean counting is not the be all end all of life. There has to be a value atached to quality of life in an area.
Big council has lost it's way. It does not care about local communities. They are expensive and no longer prioritise their core functions; Roads, paths, parks, gardens, waste collection, civic pride, etc. Big Council is only interested in their own corporate structure and power. Politics and other agendas prevail. Community is ignored treated without respect. Rate payer are big councils cash cow. Individuals see council as a pathway to personal political career aspirations. Council needs to be depoliticalised.
Bite the bullet. Make a decision. The estimates of costs for the different options are simply that, estimates. Put the business case forward, returning to residents the Council they deserve and pay for in their rates.
Bring back our Leichhardt Council
Business case does not demonstrate a strong case to de- amalgamate. What is the Labor opportunity view? If there is a change of govt next year how will this impact. Can disaffected residents take legal action if business case not forwarded to State govt? Ie Greens councillors and their supporters? What would this cost?
Business case is skewed and makes the current council seem untrustworthy.
Business case needs to seriously outline how the deamalgated councils will reduce the deficits that will result over a fixed time period. Simply passing costs to rate payers is unacceptable.
centralization cannot work with diverse councils that have strong identity this was an interesting exercise, let’s learn from it and move on to smaller and nimbler councils small is beautiful. IWC only brought mega projects that benefited a few. Showing how easy bigger councils can be corrupted into wasteful projects a council is about serving community. IWC is not serving any community as there are none identifiable (or too many).
Citizens have expressed a clear preference for de-amalgamation. Our local government must support the democratic wishes of its citizens.
Completely inadequate, not taking into account residents feelings. The discussion process is such a stark contrast to before the amalgamation. Yet it is the same disheartening outcome.
Consider also, the promised financial benefit from the state govt was not realised, and services in Leichhardt have declined, there is no obvious benefit from the amalgamation
Considering 62.5 per cent of residents were in favour of deamalgamation in a poll with a turn out of 80.7 per cent I think it's stating the bleeding obvious that this is what the residents want and I think that the Inner West Council should act of our wishes.
Council funding of works has not been evenly distributed. Amalgamation has not seen a reduction in cost of Councils. Services have reduced drastically in Marrickville Council area, particularly Petersham. Current Council has overseen the destruction of Petersham Park which is unforgiveable. The bigger Council is not listening to all rate payers.

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? SUBMIT BUSINESS CASE
Council needs to scale down their bureaucracy.
Council should honour the wishes of the 63% of residents who have already voted for de-amalgamation This survey is an attempt to undermine those results. It's not genuine consultation with residents
Council should listen to and respect the views of constituents.
Council should recognise that its job is to represent the residents. Not the interests of councillors.
Councils can still tender for services
Councils should be local (hence the commonly used phrase Local Council). The current Inner West Council area is way too large to facilitate local decisions.
Current council is overly politicized by the majority. Independent voices are suppressed and there are no discussions of alternatives..
Deamalgamate asap
De-amalgamate now!
De-amalgamate NOW!
Deamalgamation be sooner the better. The 50 page business case (or benefit-cost study) plus Appendices looks too theoretical to be readily understood by many people.
De-amalgamation can't happen fast enough ..... and councillors should represent their electorate, not their political party.
De-amalgamation is a sensible and practical way forward. Contracting services such as waste is possible with councils of any size. Keep the councils small and relevant to local needs.
De-amalgamation should be priority. the people have voted in favour of this, so please listen to the community. the survey is of no value when we have already spoken in support of the de-amalgamation. Party politics in local government needs to be banned once and for all. We do not need the petty bickering and egos in our Council. Council needs to get on with the job of looking after our local area and spending our rates on the things that matter to us as stated before in the survey. There is no place in local government for "other agendas".
Did the budget decrease once the councils amalgamated? Just trying to understand increased cost if we de amalgamate.
Do it once and it do it properly. Use consultants and/or staff who actually understand the issues, are analytical and can use research and evidence. This is, so far, namby pamby work that could be used for any council.
Do it. Also this survey was almost useless on an iphone. In landscape the start (or end) of sentences were cut off by the camera. Show a bit of professionalism and style this survey for a phone.
don't do something without asking - give us back what we had before and were happy with

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? SUBMIT BUSINESS CASE
Emphasis should be upon grassroots community odentity
Evidently the inner west council has been run inefficiently which is what happens when councils and bureaucracy gets too large. Priorities change to suit the political to the detriment of local residents
Ferdera l government should pay for this rather than residents as it was forced upon councils
Full transparency on Council salaries is needed
Further evidence of flawed business case - the report has financial projections out to 20yrs with cost predictions for demerger which are bizarre & have a huge margin for error. Plus the consultants rebased the previous Councils to premerger conditions with calculations & projections based on this - an approach needing scrutiny by independent experts.So I don’t accept that the options provided are acceptable,based as they are on a flawed business case.
Further to my previous comments, the minister should use the same business case that was presented to ratepayers in the first place for the FORCED amalgamations. That is, none.
Get a new and independent consultant please
Get it done
Get it done. Amalgamation has bought us none of the benefits promised and a heap of disadvantages.
Get it done. Deamalgmate. It's what we voted for.
Get on with it.
Get on with it. How many times and ways do we have to say get on with it
Give us back our council. How about a return to democracy!
Give us what we voted for. I hope we still live in a democracy where our vote counts
Go ahead with the business case asap
Have read that it is the same company that produced the case for amalgamation. Times have changed in the interim. There is state wide consternation about councils having being forced to amalgamate, so ensure language is not weighted to produce as IWC cannot function with two groups which are diametrically opposed. This situation needs to change
Hight turnover if executive staff Toxic staff culture Dysfunctional council culture Deamallgamate immediately
Hopefully, the de-amalgamation will me other suburb can be better managed than it is now. It is disgraceful
How much have the 'business case' option studies cost the rate payers? Why was this amalgamation 'forced' when clearly was not desired or supported? How much time and cost will be borne by ratepayers to return to status quo? What services or community support will be

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? SUBMIT BUSINESS CASE
affected by de-amalgamation? What is the timeline for Minister review and potential decision to be made?
I am disappointed with Council's choice of consultant for drafting the business case and think a better result would be achieved by using someone else.
I am extremely dissatisfied with the level of information provided by IWC and further, the modelling. This current process (including asking residents to confirm the results of the plebiscite again is an absolute disgrace. How much is this ridiculous survey costing residents. I would have expected this behaviour from the Property Council/aka NSW Libs, but not from a Labor majority council.
I am furious as to the destruction of Livingstone road with the ridiculous bike oaths If this is something innerwest council is proud of then that is disgraceful Everything has just gotten worse since the amalgamation
I am hugely disappointed about the manner in which Inner West Council, under Mayor Byrnes leadership, has conducted the business case for demerger. The process has been opaque, excluded community, and has been fraught with political overtones
I am supportive of it if it doesn't have a significant impact on residents and provides a net benefit for local communities. Should include some continued sharing of facilities but probably more locally-directedservices.
I appreciate the consultative approach and the facts-based analysis presented. I hope the outcome is equally democratic and reasoned. Also please fix the potholes on Markham place/Cavill Ave :)
I appreciate the opportunity to have a voice
I believe the first preference is essential. Nothing could be worse than retaining Labour councillors who have cheated a 63% vote by all ratepayers to de- amalgamate. I believe a class action should be commenced against this Labour council [because thats what it has become]
i do not trust the research report you are relying on .. you should get a second and possibly a third analysis.
I don't believe the Council has dealt on good faith with the community with little consultation and a business case which is has been prepared by a consultant that prepared the previous pro-amalgamation business case for the Council. This consultant is not perceived to be impartial and has been biased by this previous modelling exercise. Many of the additional costs identified by the consultant are assumed projected costs which cannot be accurately quantified. The C.P.I. figure has not been stated for these proje cohort of Councillors to justify their decision to buckle under pressure from the State Government to amalgamate. They cannot admit that Council service levels to the community have deteriorated and costs increased under the current Inner West model.

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? SUBMIT BUSINESS CASE
I don't believe the figures in the business case. I've seen nothing substantial since to explain why it's a bad idea. The point of demerging isn't just about cost - it's about the kind of council area we want. We've seen the recent history - it is nowhere near enough to assume some sports fields make a great inner city area. A separate Leichhardt Council has a real chance of being far-sighted, taking advantage of community expertise and improving life in an increasingly hazardous environment.
I don't feel that the presentation of the business case is being genuinely handled by the Mayor and the Labor team. There is a tone of bias in their presentation and replies. This is disappointing as it is not representative of the 63% of voters that said YES to the de-merger. This makes me very very angry and disappointed. I believe there should be further research and input from experts who have experience in de-merger process, to be able to present a positive sturdy case to the state government. Local representation is very important to me, and I want a smaller local council back (ie Marrickville Council.)
I don't really believe it. IWC has not shown any promised benefits to its ratepayers. I don't understand why it should be proud to generate a surplus, it is a service proved not a profit maker. There is a distinct need for more, not less representation and participation.
I don't think the three options offered in the business reflected all the available options and werre skewed towards not going ahead with de-amalgamation.
I feel that this survey is very much skewed by the current amalgamated council to produce an anti-amalgamation reponse from constituents I would very much hope that the current amalgamated council can set aside its fears of facing a new election and carry out the de-amalgamation as per the wishes of 62.4 per cent of the voters
I feel very disappointed by the level engagement of the process. I understand that there is a belief that State government will not fund the de-amalgamation. I also believe local engagement has been significantly under represented by Councillors in the Labor faction. As a Labor member I am very disappointed by my representative.
I have not seen any improvement in service since amalgamation so I don't know where the extra spending went, except to councillors wages and some councils propping up other council's debts.
I hope that movement occurs on this front. We voted for de amalgamation and that is my preference.
I miss the half yearly street cleanups.
I see this re-engagement on de-amalgamation to be a waste of resources and money when the community already voted overwhelmingly to de-amalgamate
I think I've said it all
I think the council should proceed with the de amalgamation and not try to find excuses not to proceed

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? SUBMIT BUSINESS CASE
I want to make a separate submission please as this survey is misleading and does not allow me to critique the business case This survey is deliberately limiting what people can give feedback on. It is highly disrespectful of the community to only provide this as a way of engaging on the de-amalgamation issue I note as well that the online forum held on 21 July was not consultation it was a one-way information session There has been no real community consultation on the business case or the de-amalgamation process This business case has not had any input from the community to develop its terms of reference. The whole process is a farce and should be redone with the community involved from day one.
I would like a revised business case with greater involvement of residents and other experts, as recommended by Residents for De-amalgamation
I would like the so called compensation non payment investigated. May not have the correct wording but I remember some payment was missed.
I'm concerned the report focuses on financial stuff projected into the future of which future councils would be making decisions, isn't that a qualified risk in itself? The qualitative community benefits aren't adequately addressed and may out weigh the financial costs I don't understand the argument that staff (under deamalg) scenario would have to go when wouldn't more stafff be needed overall for each split smaller council? Can't have the argument both ways. And didn't council loos staff when it merged? Sounds like they can't and won't manage organisational change. Clearly nearly 2/3 of residents want to change, doesn't have to exactly change back to the complete passed some merged services ie libraries and expensive swimming pools can be shared. Anyone currently on higher pay due to economy of scale scenario of bigger council has a conflict of interest to not support deamalg as their salaries will go down. Nuff said.
If Council does not follow the instructions the Community gave, what kind of public service of a modern democracy it would be.
If Council is basing its case on the NSW government bearing the cost then it is setting itself up to fail. Council must find a way to make it happen. The poll result is quite clear.
If it costs more it should be done. I have seen services become McDonaldised. Now we have private schools in the area that are more responsive to community needs then council run operations.
If only you guys had listened to the opposition to amalgamation on the first place all these other expenses and waste of time would not have happened
If residents and Council in Leichhardt could operate in a financially responsible way before, it can be done again. Some financially higher commitments may need to carry on due to improvements but good communication with rate payers can return Leichhardt Council to a responsibly financial position again.
If the Council has to be sacked and an administrator appointed to deal with the transition, I would have no problem with that.
If the council were more honest about it, they would have specified what their "higher service levels" are.

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? SUBMIT BUSINESS CASE
I'm unsure about the consultation co. Make sure the case is viable and not Corrupted by vested interests
I'm willing to pay more to have Marrickville back to the service levels we had prior to the IWC.
Inner West Council should have had a real tender seeking a professional firm that had a history of de-merger success rather than appointing the same team that supported demerger before the poll. This business case does not represent the community's expectations. I am sick of Councillors telling us what it is we want.
Is Council burying their head in the sand on this matter. Lack of transparency about this situation. I will no longer continue to support Labor at the next Council election. It's a total disgrace to be asked to complete this AGAIN.
Is there any information from the state government level about how they will make decisions once presented with the business case? Transparency around the business case is a must if trust in council is to be maintained
It has been dishonestly commissioned and presented to the residents, and has no credibility. Obviously the majority of residents thought carefully about the true issues when voting - the new councellors should be applying themselves to reversing the amalgamation, and ensuring that the costs of deamalgamation are born by the State Government which imposed it, rather than on the rate payers.
It has to be more than a business case. A commuinity values case, community belonging and locallity belonging case.
It is a shame that the wasted tax payer funds from the amalgamation process cannot be re-couped.
It is clear that the Council is using leading questions in this survey to try and put people off deamalgamation. The business Case appears as a very half-hearted, designed to fail, attempt to deamalgamate - and residents expect better. We already voted to deamalgamate, please get it done and stop trying to lead the community to change their mind.
It is not business as usual and there are more important issues than business.
It looks like a stacked deck. See earlier comments.
It s not very thorough and misrepresents $$$ value council does not get all $$ from rates which this infers with $$ increases to each prev council also to suggest that facilities like Ash pool become a problem is false all aquatic centres can still be run across all 3 councils once we de amalgamate. In much the reverse of prev harmonisation!!
It should have been put out to tender The council engaged a firm that previously modelled in favour of amalgamation
It should have independent review from both sides of politics so as not reflect the biases of current staff. The business case needs to be made public Drafts should be available for commentary.

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? SUBMIT BUSINESS CASE
It should never have been 3 into 1 way too big We were never asked initially State Govt as usual did what they wanted The true cost and merging 3 councils was never looked into or told to residents prior to it happening
It should only be responses from residents and property owners in IWC not "others"
It should only be responses from residents and property owners in IWC, not "others"
It was forced on us, possibly illegally, and should be undone. Stop pontificating, get it done.
It was produced by the same company that produced the amalgamation report - which could be perceived as a pretty serious conflict of interest What do Micromex own the copyright to the document ? It was paid for with ratepayers funds, and is in my opinion work-for-hire.
It was very hard to read. I'm not sure what the readability score was but most householders would not grasp the content. It appeared to favour maintaining the inner west council which is not appropriate in an explainer.
IWC procrastination in implementing the de-amalgamation voted by the people in 2021 is shameful. IWC has no mandate to conduct surveys, spend council funds on consultants reports and business cases, all irrelevant and a waste of taxpayers money. Instead of irresponsibly wasting time and money, it is time for Council to set a firm date, and implement the de-amalgamation ASAP. There is no need for a de-amalgamation business case; there is an urgent need for a de-amalgamation implementation plan.
IWC should present an unbiased case to NSW govt if deamalgamation continues to be supported by a majority of rate payers
JUST DO IT
Just de-amalgamate already
Just do it for God's sake
Just do it.
just do it. We voted for it.
Just do your job
Just do your job and get it done
Just get in with what voters told the Council to do - deamalgamate. Biased surveys like this are an insult to residents.
Just GET IT DONE, already!
Just get on with it and stop wanting our money on these stupid;y expensive surveys. Do as you have been instructed by constituents
Just get on with it.

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? SUBMIT BUSINESS CASE
Just go back to the ire opus arrangements where council workers know their area and de merge as soon as possible -do it !
Jut Do It!!!!
Let's keep it as transparent as possible and allow people to have their say when the final costs are worked out. My part of the inner west (Balmain) is quite wealthy but there are hubs even here where higher rates may cause financial stress
Listen to what the people want! We voted in favour of de-amalgamation and that is because it is what we think is best for our area.
Loaded questions The case for deamalgamation was made a passed Get on with it
Make the business case as practical as possible ie the exact impact on services
Marrickville Matters!!!
More financial security for Leichhardt residents. More community participation in all issues relation to the area. More ability for council officers and workers to take charge of the overall general amenity of their area
Morrison Low was the wrong choice for preparing a Business Case. This survey is biased in favour of remaining in amalgamation. There is an assumption that services improved after amalgamation. That is not verified by experience. Staff have been unduly stressed by unrealistic expectations as shown by instability in leadership roles Local Govt should be LOCAL. Councillors should live &/or work in their ward.
My experience of the Inner West Council has been very disappointing. One example is the decline of the community nursery at Whites Creek. Once the pride of the local volunteers it is now a closed area, discouraging involvement and producing substandard plants. Council talks a lot about inclusiveness but does not actively encourage it. I hear nothing but complaints about service levels and staff failure to make themselves available and open to engagement
My further thoughts are to reiterate that the case being prepared is fatally flawed and that if the Labor majority in the IWC were truly invested in its residents and interested in their views then we would not be asked to complete this biased, misleading survey and community consultation letting a would be called for residents to provide their proper input so that their views could be included in the business case. This survey is absolutely not the platform upon which a fe-amalgamation business case can be built
NEED AN INDEPENDENT BUSINESS CASE COMPLETE BY AN EXPERT IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT. Community wants transparency. We feel manipulated at every step by the Mayor and ALP Councillors who don't want to emerge. Their power in this matter is a brilliant example of why IWC needs to be more LOCAL again. Too much power in the hands of few over the majority is not good for the community.
No … What a mess!
No further comments.

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? SUBMIT BUSINESS CASE
No thanks
No too annoyed with the whole exercise from inception a year or two ago.
No, just get on with it.
NO, PROVIDING THE BUSINESS CASE IS OBJECTIVE AND NOT POLITICALLY BIASED.
No. Get it done and get back to the community
No. Thanks
No. That's all. Thanks
Nope - just get rid of inner west - it's all about corporate profits to the detriment of the community.
Not at this stage as I still consider the demerger/deamalgamation to be the correct way to go and have yet to be convinced otherwise.
Not enough detail provided to support maintenance of inner west council. Consultant reports lack credibility and have a clear bias towards maintaining status quoe For a progressive council they don't seem to care about local representative democracy
Not on deamalgabarion but I'd love Christmas tree collection and
Not yet. I haven't read the case yet.
Only at a high level and no real data on budgets or where 115 new staff will be No real transition plan No risk mitigation plan to be done before Minister decision No real detail on service levels Confusion on appointment of administrator and payments for costs
Only that it is unclear to me if the additional $89 covers increases in services for Marrickville only if we go with option B. What about the rates? It does seem that the advantages to de-amalgamating seem slight after reading the information provided here, compared with the greatly increased costs incurrent in deamalgamation. Whi will pay for this process? The rate payers or the NSW government?
Option A should proceed.
Our green waste bins are often not collected on the designated days. Graffiti removal and booked council waste collection are not at an acceptable standard.
Please deamulgamate!
Please do as the electorate has directed!
Please explain why a business case is required to reinstate the equilibrium and how much it has cost when one wasn't required in the beginning
Please get on with it and stop spending money on consultants. It's what the majority want and we didn't request the amalgamation in the first instance.

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? SUBMIT BUSINESS CASE
Please get on with it.
please just get it done.
Please see previous comment. This does not feel like a fair or unbiased survey.
Poorly written States facts with no substantiation such as no savings if use a coomon service provider across all 3. Go to EOI and check facts. Written for a case to stay as is. Not balanced
Preparation of the business case should be put to tender and not given to Morrison Low The brief for the preparation should be discussed on council and made public The brief should include a clear instruction to make the strongest case for de-amalgamation The brief should canvass options for shared services between Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrckville The new draft case should put on public display
Preparing a business case to convince residents to change their position on de-amalgamation based purely on a perceived rate increase is petty politics.
Proceed with de-amalgamation and put a proper business case to the NSW Government. Not the onbe currently undertaken.
Rates should be the equivalent of the pre amalgamation
Residents clearly showed their preference for de-amalgamation. Please do not let these voices go unheard. Support those residents you represent and propose to the minister a case to de-amalgamate.
Should have got someone good to do it, like Prof Joseph Drew.
Should have never amalgamated in the first place. Dumb decision.
Staff should move jobs if they don't like democracy Plenty of jobs in the private sector Leave your cushy inner west job or get your head back into one of the 3 local councils
State Government should pay for it.
State govt should pay for its costly mistake in forcing amalgamation
Stating that de-amalgamation will require an increase in rates in order to maintain the same level of services that we had before amalgamation seems disingenuous.
Stop dragging the chain and do what the majority of people want or get voted out of council
Stop procrastinating and get on with it. Not a good look for our elected representatives to be so overtly pursuing their own agendas when the people spoke clearly at election time viz deamalagamation desires.
Suggest re drafting and exploring more options Present community with more information on service levels Present community with more information on pricing i.e. the questions in this survey do not indentify whether the cost increases are annual per household or quarterly
supportive of business case

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? SUBMIT BUSINESS CASE
Surely there must be some compensation from NSW government to de-amalgamate as amalgamation was on their direction and has since failed to provide the benefits on which the decision was made.
Swapping a more efficient, larger council for a less efficient, smaller council doesn't advance the local area. The composition of the council remains much the same, i.e a mix of property developers, L-plate politicians wanting work experience, and genuine local enthusiasts. Here's an idea: I guess there was an implied promise that the case would be presented to the Minister – but not that it would be positive. So you could still live up to the promise and make it negative! Call marketing.
The business case does not provide empirical data that rates will rise. There is no proof that staff will be cut as the same number will be needed for the 3 Councils. The business case is purposely negative to try to stop the De-amalgamation. There has been no consultation with the residents prior to the case being presented. The high amounts quoted for de-amalgamation can not be verified by any evidence.
The business case needs to take into account the community spirit. What is money when there is no community feel. In any event, we are not struggling in this area, its not like Mount Druitt - the average house price is not cheap and rents are expensive. Its time to get the Council back too the community, and stop with the pomp and arrogance. Now the elections are over the Councilors don't want to know us.
The business case supplied is poorly defined. There are better options that were not q canvassed that could continue with deamalgamation yet ensure cost is managed effectively.
The business cases for and against have been controversial and I don't trust them. We need a more independent source to make the case.
the case certainly needs to include more than what is viewed as 'services' there needs to be an attempt to value the democratic values & social capital from particpation of residents There needs ot be an anaysis of the working of the ordinary council meetings - they go for too long & there is very little discussion, where does the discussion occur, or does it? in reality residents have not access - too far to go & the agenda for too longs The views of council employees, who are public servants, should not be considered in the de-merger case. It is not about them. IT is about what the residents want. Rssdietns ahve voted to deamalgamage so there shoud be s positive case presented to reflect these wishes. There needs be a way to measure the reduction in interaction between residents & their councillors
The consultants used to prepare the case are hopelessly compromised. At first they argued the case against deamalgmation by Marrickville and Leichhardt, and now argue to stay amalgamated. They are simply gus for hire to provide the answers preferred by senior staff and by the ALP. The process should start again, and be genuinely independent The report must engage with the academic research that indicates that amalgamated Councils are more expensive The report must not the NSW Government off the hook by forcing the amalgmation on the community. Council must insist all the costs of demerger are paid by the NSW Government as required by legislation.
The costings are crap. There is no business case to support them.

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? SUBMIT BUSINESS CASE
The council area covered should be half the size. In its current form it services too many areas. It doesn't have to return to exactly it's preamalgamation size, but it does need to be smaller than it currently is.
The council is pursuing a tactic to try and dissuade voters instead of respecting the vote and wish of the people The lack of respect of council for the vote is not going to be seen in a good light keeping the inner west council intact only serves the council and not the voters and residents it is clear the wish of residents is to deamalgamate. Council needs to demand this not use smoke and mirrors business cases.
The council should serve the interests of residents and shouldn't engage in power politics.
The current council is too big to support the diversity of the residents.
The document does not contain sufficient critical analysis of its claims. The "costs" do not include autocratic decision making. The tree policy is a classic case of bad policy. Where are the costs of the bad policies documented? Consultative processes are problematic. The Inner West Council web site is difficult to negotiate and has gone through many iterations. Where is this included as a cost? Where are the costs of car parking policies identified? Does one size fit all 3 Councils? Why was no attempt made to identify the benefit of greater representation?
The forced amalgamation should never have happened. It was done to ensure efficient process of WestConnex and to deny residents meaningful input to opposition of this and other state govt. policies.Our lga has suffered significantly with lack of resident input to council decision making process andpoor maintenance of facilities, andcouncillors having to carry a workload that is far too big as per ratio of one councillor to number of residents To gain attention some councillors seem to promote motions/matters that are divi than being for the overall benefit. I don't think that a small increase over 10-20 years as proposed by M L report is a problem at all, when improved services and access to staff and better access to a ward councillor are the result.I think that quoting big $ is a plan to frighten residents but when the maths come down to w weekly increase it s approx $1n per week per individuaII don't reallky care tho what the cost is--just give us
The forced amalgamation was an example of taking away democratic right to determine what should happen on our local governments
The Inner West Council needs to act with integrity and provide an accurate and accountable business case to the NSW Minister for Local Government. There are clearly vested interests in resisting de-amalgamation.
The locals clearly voted for de-amalgamation and I believe all the Councillors should listen to their electorate and not be interested in just saving their seats. IWC have spent money repaving King St but after only a couple of years the pavement is more dangerous than ever allowing NBN, Telstra and other services dig up pavers and replacing it with Tarmac. They also promised a Table tennis table in Camperdown park but that never materialised.
the majority voted for at the last local election residents need to be heard and have needs met
the ML draft is unfit for purpose - see my correspondence to council

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? SUBMIT BUSINESS CASE
The need for improved, timely and efficient personal service for Inner West residents.
The original amagamation of services across 3 former Council areas created a less responsive Council in terms of particular needs of the individual former Council areas. There has been too much in fighting amongst Councillors and the Council staff have not been responsive to listening to Councillors who were representing their constituents.
The overall report goal seems to be to suggest that if de-amalgamation goes ahead we ratepayers will inevitably be financially damaged. However it's a false dichotomy to claim that the only possible choice is between the status quo or a total stand-alone outcome. I support a further option, that the Morrison Low report glosses over in a way that strains credulity. This is negotiating some continued shared services among the three Councils, while also using combined purchasing power where advantageous, and enga It's also important to press the State Govt to pay most or all of the costs of a de-amalgamation process. If the State Govt demurs, I suggest that Council promote the intention of working with like-minded Councils and other groups to make this a major issue for the forthcoming state election, and believe that such a notified intention would suffice to bring about a change of heart on the matter. This is a government that can, until heavily criticised, blithely recommend spending $25 million to run up an extra f
The poll showed that 62% of those who voted want de-amalgamation - I don't believe that certain council members support de-amalgamation and long surveys like this are designed to make people lose interest and not respond. It is a very poor tactic.
The principle of democracy is an important one, and greater representation should be supported for future generations
The printed materials delivered in our mailbox do not match the figures presented here. It does make me wonder about the accuracy and validity .
The reports appear biased Leichhardt council was operating very efficiently pre analgamation. Restore it.
The sooner the better Local councillors know the place and people
The State Government forced this amalgamation of our local councils. They must now pay for their error and de-amalgamate. We just want to return to individual councils representing local people. In my case this is Marrickville Council.
The state government should pay the extra costs of returning to 3 LGAs
The wishes and rationale of the community to de-amalgamate the councils are a high priority.
There is no reason Marrickville council residents should pay more because other councils didn't manage their finances as well. We pay more now for fewer services and terrible maintenance of our parks and verges. It's ridiculous this was forced on us by Gov because of Westconnex. We shouldn't be forced to pay for it.
There needs to be clear communication and transparency on the process - rather than decision being simply over ruled by the minister

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? SUBMIT BUSINESS CASE
There should have been a referendum on the amalgamation proposal
This matter should be satisfied in a fair and democratic manner to the benefit of the ratepayers and other residents of each separate break-up of the present system of care etc.
This Questionnaire appears to be biased to guide residents, many of what may not be trained in critical reading of Web-literacy to believe that the "higher cost" of Case A is not desirable. Repeated questions in this "research" reinforce the idea that de-amalgamation is too costly. This is all done *AFTER* a democratic vote where over 62% of residents in IWC areas voted FOR demalgamation. It appears to be an antidemocratic measure to have this questionnaire put to residents ddespite a clear vote for de-amalgamation, similalry to tghe Morrison Government after the recent May elections trying to put out questionnaires to voters suggesting on how expensive a change of government could be , suggesting voters may have made a mistake...
This survey is biased to get anti- demerger responses from
This survey is not scientific data collection. It is written extremely subjectively and manipulates the participants. The statistics generated should be completed by an independent statistition. The council has been extremely dismissive of resident participation in the created of our buisness case being sent to the state level. I do not believe that the council or this hired firm has the interests of the residents at heart with these manipulative surveys. I firmly believe that this survey has been created to try and get a conflicting result to the compulsary poll, which 100% of residents completed.
To make people who are totally involved in this whole fiasco accountable in what they perceive ratepayers want.
We were forced into amalgamation
Well I voted for it, now I'm completing a survey about it, and I've had to confirm it with a follow up question. This indicates the inefficiency of the current system. We voted for it. Get it done.
Whatever happens Council needs to focus on residents. Larger council driven by political interests Reduce political influence by creating smaller councils Ensure that the business case is provided independently with no councillors incl mayor having input into recommendations Employ unrelated non political entity to review final business case. I have no faith in what will be presented being representative of residents views.
Whatever it costs, it should be done.
Whoever wrote it should be sacked, either that or whoever gave them the brief sacked. Definition of a business case is "a justification for a proposed project or undertaking on the basis of its expected commercial benefit" what has been written is an anti business case and needs rewriting to be a real business case The publication of this business case as a piece of quality work is further justification why the councils should demerge, senior staff and councillors are looking after themselves and not the people who live in the area and pay their wages You have missed all the soft benefits for residents, these will be huge and also for staff who will be able to live and work in their local area and know their customers De-amalgamating will give the staff certainty after it is complete, saying they don't want it now is not surprising, no one likes change, that is why change management is so important in any project affecting people 3.2 focuses on

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? SUBMIT BUSINESS CASE
response from 122 residents in a population of over 200,000 (0.06% of the population) show how disassociated people are with council and council with residents, why was this low response not clearly indicated in the section, in fact how is such a low response even viable to be mentioned in a business case at all
Why has the cultural advisor position not been advertised ? The role was meant to be temporary and no other Aboriginal people have had the opportunity to apply or even interview
Why wasn't the business case put out to tender? Why didn't the council ask Morrison and Low to consult local government experts" Why didn't the council consult the community, as per Treasury guidelines on best practice business cases? Why did Morrison Low rule out investigating shared services across the 3 former councils? There is literature on this. Why did ML draft a business case that does not have a chance of success with the pro-amalgamation NSW government?
Will the business case be as misleading and deceptive as all the material put out to the public by IWC on deamalgamation has been to date? I include the skewed questions in this survey in that question. Will the business case be made available to the public prior to its being submitted to the state government? Will councillors have the business case withheld from them until being asked to vote on it at the very last minute, most likely around midnight, as has occurred before in relation to this issue? Will the public be permitted to address the council on the quality of the business case, prior to its being presented to government? Will the Mayor allow this at all or only allow it at a time extremely inconvenient to those who work during daylight hours?
Would like to be kept fully informed of all developments re deamalgamation.
Would like to see case for Ashfield and Marrickville remaining merged and Leichhardt returning to its own LGA. Ashfield and Marrickville communties are more similar. Affluent Leichhardt has dominated and is incompatible with Ashfield and Marrickville community.
Would like to see it and have opportunitiy to review and provide feedback before it is approved. Minimum expectations has a rate payer
Yes I have many. I will make a written submission. Concern 1 is the case for action is not well articulated and has not been informed by consultation post the demerger poll Concern 2 is the options identified are not comprehensive of the options to adresss the case for action Concern 3 is the cost benefit analysis excludes the stated benefits and so is just a financial appraisal
Yes not happy with the way the servey is biased towards not deamalgamating there needs to be an independent business case put out to tender m
yes to include everyone's opinion on the de-amalgamation. Residents, Independent councillors, councils who rejected the merge to have a say. Not just Innerwest Council. Also dont understand why you are doing this again when we had already voted for the de-amalgamation.
Yes we spoke at a Leichhardt Council meeting and it was excellent. We were able to witnesses all of the issues being debated. i would like this again - don't wish to travel to Ashfield for a Council meeting at night. anyway there is only Coles? to park at.

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? SUBMIT BUSINESS CASE
Yes, contract workers are not monitored and do not do the proper standard.Street trees are not maintained causing damage to cars and residents. How many members on the Inner West Council are ratepayers? The town Centre of Balmain is a disgrace.
Yes, I do De-amalgamation PLEASE
Yes, make it v. good!
Yes, please respect the outcome of the democratic process undertaken at the last LG election. Proceed with the formal process of de-amalgamation without further delay and stop trying to stymie the process with biased 'business cases' by private, neo-liberal consultants and manipulative push polling. Council is not a business, it is a democratic institution which belongs to local residents and we have the right to determine our own form of representative government.
Yes, respect the vote of Inner West residents (62.5%) and start the process of de-amalgamation immediately.
Yes, The consultants the Inner West Council Manager directed staff to egage for the businnes case are not experts in businees case for de-amalgation. The goverment recommends that business case be with local govement experts. I want the business case to reflect the high poll vote of 62.5% across the Inner West Council area is be as strong as it can be so we can fulfill the communities wishes. The business case draft and this survey are written to question the Yes poll vote and confuse residents in order to manipulate the strong Yes vote, This process is a crude push poll to deliver a vote against the community. I want a the businnes case draft to be scrapped and the businnes case driven by direct consultation with the community to bring in local government experts to deliver a genuine business case that has the community at heart.
Yes, this is an unnecessary survey. Another waste of money by the Innerwest council, just get on with it. The fa t that 80% of people voted getting 62% saying de-amalgamate, is so annoying. Just get on with it . If i wS renting i would not have bothered to fill in the question at the council election. Just stop trying to change the goal poles and get on with it.
Yes. I need more clarity as to what services might change if we now deamalgamate.
I want compensation for the residents for having this amalgamation forced on them.
I was required to complete Q7 however, I strongly oppose all these options. This is a fault in the design of this survey.
I would appreciate you publishing the results of this survey against the results of the non-binding poll.
The whole process is biased encouraging voters to de-amalgamate. Review reasons with real case reasons to either amalgamate or deamalgamate. Having 3 groups (Councils) do the job of one is ridiculous. This whole process should be run by impartial staff with no vested interest. A pity the council members involved (politics not good admin).
How much is this survey costing? Why needed when already voted in December? Such ratepayer wastage is another example of why Inner West Council is so much in debt. Poor management and KPIs performance like any other business. I have lost faith totally in the current Council given its

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? SUBMIT BUSINESS CASE
behaviour of late especially. It is not demonstrating “integrity, democracy, and transparency” this rhetoric is hollow and not earning any trust my trust and many in the community too.
I strongly disagree with Council and Mayor promoting? issues irrelevant to their role. The Mayor spent the initial minutes of the address grandstanding the Aboriginal voice. The plight of Aboriginals has been raised by Senator Jacinta (illegible)
I consider it appalling that IWC engaged Morrison Low to prepare the business case. That task should have been put out to tender at arms length. In my view this “survey” and comments in the “IWC Draft De-Amalgamation Business Case” document amount to a not very cunning attempt to “stitch up” a result in favour of retaining the IWC.
I just cannot understand why IWC engaged Morrison Low again (Ie, after they had prepared a no-amalgamation case before the 2 0 2 1 Poll) to then prepare a supposed neutral "pro" and "con" case for the de-amalgamation. No-one seems to know how this firm were chosen. As best I know, there was no tender process. Why not? The business case as put in the flyer we all got is nearly impenetrable and looks very skewed in favour of the status quo. It seems to be trying to scare us into keeping the current merged council on threats of higher rates and lower services. But we already have lower services and ordinary ground/maintenance workers are stretched to the max (eg cleaning out gutters. mowing verges, removing dumped household stuff etc).!!! Also our rates have recently risen and will again of course, no matter what. Final comment: we were never told why Michael Deegan, a senior Labor plant as CEO, l e f t the IWC in a hurry and apparently under a cloud. I believe he was paid handsomely. WHY did he leave and why weren't we told the real reasons? Plus, we never learned why the former Marrickville GM (Brian Barrett) who replaced Deegan on a short term contract, also left before his contract expired. Why did he leave in this way and why weren't we, the residents, business owners and workers told the reasons? How does all this add up to a more efficient, smooth running amalgamated council? Whoever is pushing for the IWC to remain as is knows t h a t so many people across this large area are preoccupied with ordinary life challenges, stresses, Covid impacts. etc. Trying to plough through the complex, misleading words o f the flyer and parts o f the survey is surely aimed a t making i t even harder for ordinary people t o make informed decisions - i e to "baffle them with bullshit... How can we possibly have any belief that this survey will be properly and transparently assessed and the results not skewed? Leichhardt Council was never perfect, it certainly had its problems and problematic staff members a t times (as well as some councillors). But overall, i t worked pretty well and had a balanced budget a t the time o f the forced merger. It was much smaller in scale and therefore able to be more responsive in a timely way to the needs o f the majority o f residents, ratepayers, business owners and visitors. PUT THE CASE TO THE GOVERNMENT TO DE-AMALGAMATE!! I WANT LEICHHARDT COUNCIL BACK.
Economies of scale don’t apply in local govt you still need same number of parks, libraries and other facilities. With de-amalgamation effort can be made into where neighbouring authorities might share resources. I strongly oppose the hiring of Morrison Low for the business case since they were the same firm that provided the business case <u>for</u> amalgamation. So not strictly independent. Leaves me highly suspicious of the “business case” outcome.
If the previous council worked within its budget why is it now assumed that de-merging will cause increased costs? There are other assumptions that are unfounded e.g. that services have improved.

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? SUBMIT BUSINESS CASE
The NSW Government determined council amalgamations. We are not the only Council to return to pre-amalgamation. Residents of the Inner West were overwhelmingly against the amalgamations. 62.49% currently support the de-amalgamation in the recent survey.
"Please respect the vote"
I question the use of Morrison Low for the business case. This is clearly a conflict of interest since they are the same firm that prepared the case for amalgamation. Another instance of the corroding of trust with the IWC. A different, truly independent firm with local government expertise should have been chosen. A strong impression of bias in favour of amalgamation remains with the Council staff being used as a cover for a pro-merger stance by certain cllrs and the General Manager.
I want my 3 year back date rates! Call me! Michael 0432711516
Weak and consultant's report was sub-standard.
The case rests on political and self-interest grounds.
Big Council has lost it's way. It does not care about local communities. They are expensive and no longer prioritise their core functions; roads, paths, parks, gardens, waste collection, civic pride etc. Big Council is only interested in their own corporate structure and power. Politics and other agendas prevail. Community is ignored and treated without respect. Rate payer are big councils cash cow. Individuals see council as a pathway to personal political career aspirations. Council needs to be depoliticalized. Q12 options – this woke agenda + political correctness is infuriating.
It should only be responses from residents and property owners IWC not "others" (as per question 9).
Amalgamation should have built on the strengths if the 3 Councils and not focussed on minimal service provision and cost cutting measures. Where did all the staff from the three Councils go?
Ask for a new vote on demerger whilst providing the cost ramifications.
Because the amalgamation vote wasn't widely discussed ahead of local elections, i found that i only heard from de-amalgamation advocates opinions (with dubious reasons for de-amalgamation), without having the opportunity to hear from pro-amalgamation interests. Because the vote wasn't binding, some people may not have taken it that seriously, and so may not have thought through their vote, or not voted. I disagree with the Labour Party's approach that having gained power they would take this non-binding vote and action it as if it were binding.
Benefits of maintaining Inner West have not been well presented.
Can people not think of something more important to care about? Like actual council services, developments, etc and not just lines on a map?
Costs to either return to option A or B to prohibited
Council provides little or no services to business areas. Household rubbish can remain on streets for months. No parking restrictions means residents can park their caravans, RV's and truck indefinantly. Restricting the parking for employees and visitors. So with little service provided rate being kept in check is the most important thing.

Q10. Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case? SUBMIT BUSINESS CASE
Costs were not well considered when poll taken. Benefits of remaining amalgamated need to be better outlined.

Appendix K Hard copy surveys

A total of 39 paper surveys were received, on these 17 were manually inputted into the online survey and the results of these are included in the online v telephone report in Appendix I. The remaining 22 paper surveys were not included in the online results for the following reasons:

- 11 surveys were incomplete
- four surveys were received after the close date
- six surveys were scanned incorrectly
- one survey had no reason given.

The surveys that were not able to be included in the online survey have been provided here.

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.

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INNER WEST COUNCIL
Doc No
12 JUL 2022
RECEIVED IN
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QA. Please select your age bracket:
Please select one response.

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

QB. How long have you lived in what is now the Inner West Council area?
Please select one response.

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

Q1. In which suburb do you live?
Please select one response.

- O Annandale
- O Ashbury
- O Ashfield
- O Balmain
- O Balmain East
- O Birchgrove
- O Camperdown
- O Croydon
- O Croydon Park
- O Dulwich Hill
- O Enmore
- O Haberfield
- O Hurlstone Park
- O Leichhardt
- O Lewisham
- O Lilyfield
- O Marrickville
- O Newtown
- O Petersham
- ✓ Rozelle
- O St Peters
- O Stanmore
- O Summer Hill
- O Sydenham
- O Tempe

- O Other (please specify).....

Document Set ID: 36562151
Version: 1, Version Date: 12/07/2022

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 1	2	3	4	Very important 5
Managing planning and development	○	○	○	○	○
Environmental protection	○	○	○	○	○
Climate change	○	○	○	○	○
Maintaining and provision of green open spaces	○	○	○	○	○
Traffic management/congestion	○	○	○	○	○
Availability and access to public transport	○	○	○	○	○
Access to parking facilities	○	○	○	○	○
Maintaining the character/heritage/culture of the area	○	○	○	○	○
Improving road infrastructure/maintenance of roads	○	○	○	○	○
Council efficiency/good leadership and communication	○	○	○	○	○
De-amalgamation of Inner West Council back into the previous Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils	○	○	○	○	○

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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.

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

Q5b. Why did you vote that way?

THERE IS NO CASE ON ANY GROUNDS.

Document Set ID: 36562151
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De-amalgamation may bring a number of benefits, such as:

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- 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.

Document Set ID: 36562151
Version: 1, Version Date: 12/07/2022

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.

- O Very supportive
- O Supportive
- O Somewhat supportive
- O Not very supportive
- O 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.

- O Very supportive
- O Supportive
- O Somewhat supportive
- O Not very supportive
- O 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.

- O Very supportive
- O Supportive
- O Somewhat supportive
- O Not very supportive
- O 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.

	1st preference	2nd preference	3rd preference
Option A – De-amalgamate and return to the service levels provided prior to amalgamation	O	O	O
Option B – De-amalgamate and maintain the service levels provided by the current Inner West Council	O	O	O
Option C – De-amalgamate and reduce to below pre-amalgamation Council service levels	O	O	O

Document Set ID: 36562151
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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.

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

Q8b. Why do you say that?

HAPPY WITH COUNCIL SERVICES

Q9. How did you <u>first</u> become aware of the de-amalgamation?
Please select one response.

- O Mail out from Council
- O Council website
- O Newspaper advertisement
- ✓ Council eNewsletter
- O Mayoral Column in local paper
- O Social Media
- O Voting in December 2021

- O Other (please specify).....

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

THE CASE RESTS ON POLITICAL AND SELF-INTEREST GROUNDS

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Version: 1, Version Date: 12/07/2022

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
- O I/We currently rent this property

Q11. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?
Please select all that apply.

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

Q12. Gender:
Please select one response.

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

Q13. Do you identify as being from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse background?
Please select one response.

- O 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.

.....

Please post your completed survey to:

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

Document Set ID: 36562151
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Inner West Council
Community Survey – De-amalgamation
2022

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Doc No
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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.

- ○ Annandale
- ○ Ashbury
- ○ Ashfield
- ○ Balmain
- ⊗ Balmain East
- ○ Birchgrove
- ○ Camperdown
- ○ Croydon
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- ○ Haberfield
- ○ Hurlstone Park
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- ○ Lilyfield
- ○ Marrickville
- ○ Newtown
- ○ Petersham
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- ○ Summer Hill
- ○ Sydenham
- ○ Tempe

- ○ Other (please specify).....

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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.

- [x] 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 1	2	3	4	Very important 5
Managing planning and development	○	○	○	○	☒
Environmental protection	○	○	○	○	☒
Climate change	○	○	○	☒	○
Maintaining and provision of green open spaces	○	○	○	○	☒
Traffic management/congestion	○	○	☒	○	○
Availability and access to public transport	○	○	☒	○	○
Access to parking facilities	○	○	☒	○	○
Maintaining the character/heritage/culture of the area	○	○	○	☒	○
Improving road infrastructure/maintenance of roads	○	○	○	○	☒
Council efficiency/good leadership and communication	○	○	○	○	☒
De-amalgamation of Inner West Council back into the previous Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils	☒	○	○	○	○

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Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?
Please select one response.

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

Q5b. Why did you vote that way?

The costs and benefits are not demonstrated

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- Better alignment of Council priorities to communities of interest.

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

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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.

Document Set ID: 36562152
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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.

- O Very supportive
- O Supportive
- O Somewhat supportive
- O 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.

- O Very supportive
- O Supportive
- O Somewhat supportive
- O 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.

- O Very supportive
- O Supportive
- O Somewhat supportive
- O 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.

	1st preference	2nd preference	3rd preference
Option A – De-amalgamate and return to the service levels provided prior to amalgamation	O	O	O
Option B – De-amalgamate and maintain the service levels provided by the current Inner West Council	⊗	O	O
Option C – De-amalgamate and reduce to below pre-amalgamation Council service levels	O	O	O

Document Set ID: 36562152
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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.

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

Q8b. Why do you say that?

current service levels, high standards, and staff professionalism do not warrant the costs & dysfunctions of deamalgation

Q9. How did you <u>first</u> become aware of the de-amalgamation?
Please select one response.

- O Mail out from Council
- O Council website
- O Newspaper advertisement
- ☒ Council eNewsletter
- O Mayoral Column in local paper
- O Social Media
- O Voting in December 2021

- O Other (please specify).....

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

Weak and consultants report was sub-standard.

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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.

- [x] 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
- [x] Retired
- [ ] Unemployed/pensioner
- [ ] Other (please specify).....

Q12. Gender:
Please select one response.

- [x] 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
- [x] 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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NSW 2049

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QA. Please select your age bracket:
Please select one response.

- ○ Under 18
- ○ 18-34
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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

INNER WEST COUNCIL
Doc No
22 JUL 2022
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Q1. In which suburb do you live?
Please select one response.

- ○ Annandale
- ○ Ashbury
- ● Ashfield
- ○ Balmain
- ○ Balmain East
- ○ Birchgrove
- ○ Camperdown
- ○ Croydon
- ○ Croydon Park
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- ○ Newtown
- ○ Petersham
- ○ Rozelle
- ○ St Peters
- ○ Stanmore
- ○ Summer Hill
- ○ Sydenham
- ○ Tempe

- ○ Other (please specify).....

Document Set ID: 36604447
Version: 1, Version Date: 22/07/2022

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 1	2	3	4	Very important 5
Managing planning and development	○	○	○	○	●
Environmental protection	○	○	○	○	●
Climate change	○	○	●	○	○
Maintaining and provision of green open spaces	○	○	○	○	●
Traffic management/congestion	○	○	○	○	●
Availability and access to public transport	○	○	○	○	●
Access to parking facilities	○	○	○	○	●
Maintaining the character/heritage/culture of the area	○	○	○	○	●
Improving road infrastructure/maintenance of roads	○	○	○	○	●
Council efficiency/good leadership and communication	○	○	○	●	○
De-amalgamation of Inner West Council back into the previous Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils	○	○	○	○	●

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Q5a. What did you vote for in 2021?
Please select one response.

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- O Can't recall/Prefer not to say **(If 'Can't recall/Prefer not to say', go to next page)**
- O Was not a resident of IWC **(If 'Was not a resident of IWC', go to next page)**

Q5b. Why did you vote that way?

3 yrs for backdating & being ripped off for 20 yrs on pension pay by double rates!

– MANY OTHER REASONS

- like lowering property devs to demolish surrounding areas.

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Document Set ID: 36604447
Version: 1, Version Date: 22/07/2022

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

PENSION EXEMPT & Discount.

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.

	1st preference	2nd preference	3rd preference
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	○	○	○

I want my 3 yr backdate rates!

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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.

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

Q8b. Why do you say that?

.....

.....

.....

Q9. How did you <u>first</u> become aware of the de-amalgamation?
Please select one response.

- O Mail out from Council
- O Council website
- O Newspaper advertisement
- O Council eNewsletter
- O Mayoral Column in local paper
- O Social Media
- O Voting in December 2021

- O Other (please specify).....

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

.....

.....

.....

CALL ME!
Michael.
0432711516

Document Set ID: 36604447
Version: 1, Version Date: 22/07/2022

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)..... Pensioner

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.

.....

Please post your completed survey to:

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

Document Set ID: 36604447
Version: 1, Version Date: 22/07/2022

Inner West Council
Community Survey – De-amalgamation
2022

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QA. Please select your age bracket:
Please select one response.

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

QB. How long have you lived in what is now the Inner West Council area?
Please select one response.

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

Q1. In which suburb do you live?
Please select one response.

- O Annandale
- ✓ Ashbury
- O Ashfield
- O Balmain
- O Balmain East
- O Birchgrove
- O Camperdown
- O Croydon
- O Croydon Park
- O Dulwich Hill
- O Enmore
- O Haberfield
- O Hurlstone Park
- O Leichhardt
- O Lewisham
- O Lilyfield
- O Marrickville
- O Newtown
- O Petersham
- O Rozelle
- O St Peters
- O Stanmore
- O Summer Hill
- O Sydenham
- O Tempe

O Other (please specify).....

Document Set ID: 36608925
Version: 1, Version Date: 25/07/2022

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 1	2	3	4	Very important 5
Managing planning and development	○	○	○	○	○
Environmental protection	○	○	○	○	○
Climate change	○	○	○	○	○
Maintaining and provision of green open spaces	○	○	○	○	○
Traffic management/congestion	○	○	○	○	○
Availability and access to public transport	○	○	○	○	○
Access to parking facilities	○	○	○	○	○
Maintaining the character/heritage/culture of the area	○	○	○	○	○
Improving road infrastructure/maintenance of roads	○	○	○	○	○
Council efficiency/good leadership and communication	○	○	○	○	○
De-amalgamation of Inner West Council back into the previous Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils only	○	○	○	○	○

Document Set ID: 36608925
Version: 1, Version Date: 25/07/2022

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

Q5b. Why did you vote that way?

ASHFIELD WERE BETTER ON OUR OWN

Document Set ID: 36608925
Version: 1, Version Date: 25/07/2022

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.

Document Set ID: 36608925
Version: 1, Version Date: 25/07/2022

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.

	1st preference	2nd preference	3rd preference
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	✓	○	○

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Version: 1, Version Date: 25/07/2022

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?**

I do not like the mergers.
+ did not have a say about it

Q9. **How did you <u>first</u> 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?**

NO

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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
- O I/We currently rent this property

Q11. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?
Please select all that apply.

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

Q12. Gender:
Please select one response.

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

Q13. Do you identify as being from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse background?
Please select one response.

- O Yes
- ✓ No

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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.

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Version: 1, Version Date: 25/07/2022

Inner West Council
Community Survey – De-amalgamation
2022

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QA. Please select your age bracket:
Please select one response.

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

QB. How long have you lived in what is now the Inner West Council area?
Please select one response.

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

Q1. In which suburb do you live?
Please select one response.

- O Annandale
- O Ashbury
- O Ashfield
- O Balmain
- O Balmain East
- O Birchgrove
- O Camperdown
- O Croydon
- O Croydon Park
- O Dulwich Hill
- O Enmore
- O Haberfield
- O Hurlstone Park
- O Leichhardt
- O Lewisham
- O Lilyfield
- ☑ Marrickville
- O Newtown
- O Petersham
- O Rozelle
- O St Peters
- O Stanmore
- O Summer Hill
- O Sydenham
- O Tempe

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

Concept Statement

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

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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?

Because I saw no benefits for Marrickville, some services have not been as good & too few counsellors to represent such a large area

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
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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:
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	1st preference	2nd preference	3rd preference
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	○	○	✓

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
- O Remain as Inner West Council

Q8b. Why do you say that?

.....

.....

.....

Q9. How did you <u>first</u> become aware of the de-amalgamation?
Please select one response.

- O Mail out from Council
- O Council website
- O Newspaper advertisement
- O Council eNewsletter
- O Mayoral Column in local paper
- O Social Media
- O Voting in December 2021
- O Other (please specify) when the issue of de-amalgamation began

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

.....

.....

.....

Demographics

The following information is used for demographic purposes only.

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

Q12. Gender:
Please select one response.

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

Q13. Do you identify as being from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse background?
Please select one response.

- O Yes
- ⊘ No

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Inner West Council
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- ○ Under 18
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- ✓ 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

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Q1. In which suburb do you live?
Please select one response.

- ✓ Leichhardt
- ○ Annandale
- ○ Ashbury
- ○ Ashfield
- ○ Balmain
- ○ Balmain East
- ○ Birchgrove
- ○ Camperdown
- ○ Croydon
- ○ Croydon Park
- ○ Dulwich Hill
- ○ Enmore
- ○ Haberfield
- ○ Hurlstone Park
- ○ Lewisham
- ○ Lilyfield
- ○ Marrickville
- ○ Newtown
- ○ Petersham
- ○ Rozelle
- ○ St Peters
- ○ Stanmore
- ○ Summer Hill
- ○ Sydenham
- ○ Tempe

- ○ Other (please specify).....

Document Set ID: 36619007
Version: 1, Version Date: 27/07/2022

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 1	2	3	4	Very important 5
Managing planning and development	○	○	○	✓	○
Environmental protection	○	○	○	✓	○
Climate change	○	○	○	✓	○
Maintaining and provision of green open spaces	○	○	○	✓	○
Traffic management/congestion	○	○	○	✓	○
Availability and access to public transport	○	○	○	✓	○
Access to parking facilities	○	○	○	✓	○
Maintaining the character/heritage/culture of the area	○	○	○	✓	○
Improving road infrastructure/maintenance of roads	○	○	○	○	✓
Council efficiency/good leadership and communication	○	○	○	○	○
De-amalgamation of Inner West Council back into the previous Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils	○	○	○	○	✓

Document Set ID: 36619007
Version: 1, Version Date: 27/07/2022

Concept Statement

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

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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?

- Since amalgamation Service standards declined & difficult to speak to relevant staff member when you need to.
- Loss of community representation & lines of communication, eg Precinct groups were arbitrarily abolished on questionable grounds
- Numbers of Cllrs per population declined
- Council meetings inaccessible for many since being moved to Ashfield Council chambers, very poor bus service to and from Leichhardt, esp late at night. Zoom meetings participation not as effective but during Covid understood.
- We had greater autonomy under the former Leichhardt Council. The IWC is now simply too big with a reduced sense of community.
- Anger over the way in which the Councils were amalgamated against the wishes of the community, it was arbitrary & undemocratic. Our misgivings & doubts about the "wisdom" of merging have been borne out as outlined above. The after effect has been corrosive & has created a lack of [illegible].

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Version: 1, Version Date: 27/07/2022

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
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- Better alignment of Council priorities to communities of interest.

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- 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.

Document Set ID: 36619007
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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.

	1st preference	2nd preference	3rd preference
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	○	○	✓

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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?

Q8a should not have been included in this survey. It is in effect an attempt at another plebiscite by stealth.
If these figures can be trusted the costs will be outweighed by the advantages - return to effective service levels, greater participation & democracy

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?

I question the use of Morrison Low for the business case. This is clearly a conflict of interest since they are the same firm that prepared the case for amalgamation. Another instance of the corroding of trust with the IWC. A different, truly independent firm with local government expertise should have been chosen.
A strong impression of bias in favour of amalgamation remains with the Council staff being used as a cover for a pro-merger stance by certain Cllrs & the General Manager.

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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.

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- ○ 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

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Inner West Council
Community Survey – De-amalgamation
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QA. Please select your age bracket:
Please select one response.

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

QB. How long have you lived in what is now the Inner West Council area?
Please select one response.

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- O I live outside the Inner West

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Q1. In which suburb do you live?
Please select one response.

- O Annandale
- O Ashbury
- ◉ Ashfield
- O Balmain
- O Balmain East
- O Birchgrove
- O Camperdown
- O Croydon
- O Croydon Park
- O Dulwich Hill
- O Enmore
- O Haberfield
- O Hurlstone Park
- O Leichhardt
- O Lewisham
- O Lilyfield
- O Marrickville
- O Newtown
- O Petersham
- O Rozelle
- O St Peters
- O Stanmore
- O Summer Hill
- O Sydenham
- O Tempe

- O Other (please specify).....

where is Q2?

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 1	2	3	4	Very important 5
Managing planning and development	○	○	○	○	◉
Environmental protection } Needs higher level of Gov.	○	◉	○	○	○
Climate change } Needs higher level of Gov.	○	◉	○	○	○
Maintaining and provision of green open spaces	○	○	◉	○	○
Traffic management/congestion	◉	○	○	○	○
Availability and access to public transport State Govt Role	◉	○	○	○	○
Access to parking facilities	○	○	◉	○	○
Maintaining the character/heritage/culture of the area	○	○	○	○	◉
Improving road infrastructure/maintenance of roads	○	○	○	◉	○
Council efficiency/good leadership and communication	○	○	○	○	◉
De-amalgamation of Inner West Council back into the previous Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils	○	○	○	○	◉

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)
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Q5b. Why did you vote that way?

WANTED BETTER REPRESENTATION

WANT BETTER SERVICES

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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.

	1st preference	2nd preference	3rd preference
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	○	○	●

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.

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Q8b. Why do you say that?

THE PEOPLE VOTED TO DE-AMALGAMATE. PLEASE RESPECT THE VOTE.

Q9. How did you <u>first</u> become aware of the de-amalgamation?
Please select one response.

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- ( ) Student
- (●) Retired
- ( ) Unemployed/pensioner
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- (●) Female
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- ( ) Yes
- ( ) No
- (●) what the question is asking is not adequately defined.

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QA. Please select your age bracket:
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- O Under 18
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- ● 65+

QB. How long have you lived in what is now the Inner West Council area?
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- ● More than 20 years
- O I live outside the Inner West

Q1. In which suburb do you live?
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- O Summer Hill
- O Sydenham
- O Tempe

O Other (please specify).....

No Q2!!

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
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Maintaining and provision of green open spaces	○	○	●	○	○
Traffic management/congestion	●	○	○	○	○
Availability and access to public transport	○	○	●	○	○
Access to parking facilities	○	○	●	○	○
Maintaining the character/heritage/culture of the area	○	○	○	○	●
Improving road infrastructure/maintenance of roads	○	○	○	●	○
Council efficiency/good leadership and communication	○	○	○	○	●
De-amalgamation of Inner West Council back into the previous Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils	○	○	○	○	●

WHAT IS Q2 ?

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Q5b. Why did you vote that way?

NOT SATISFIED WITH ~~INW~~ IWC.

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Please select one response.

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PLEASE RESPECT THE VOTE

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" PLEASE RESPECT THE VOTE "

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

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Please select one response.

- ○ Yes THIS STATEMENT IS NOT ADEQUATELY DEFINED
- ○ No

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- O Camperdown
- O Croydon
- O Croydon Park
- O Dulwich Hill
- O Enmore
- O Haberfield
- O Hurlstone Park
- ✓ Leichhardt
- O Lewisham
- O Lilyfield
- O Marrickville
- O Newtown
- O Petersham
- O Rozelle
- O St Peters
- O Stanmore
- O Summer Hill
- O Sydenham
- O Tempe

- O 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 1	2	3	4	Very important 5
Managing planning and development	○	○	○	○	✓
Environmental protection	○	○	○	○	✓
Climate change	○	○	○	○	✓
Maintaining and provision of green open spaces	○	○	○	○	✓
Traffic management/congestion	○	○	○	✓	○
Availability and access to public transport	○	○	○	○	✓
Access to parking facilities	✓	○	○	○	○
Maintaining the character/heritage/culture of the area	○	○	✓	○	✓
Improving road infrastructure/maintenance of roads	○	○	✓	○	○
Council efficiency/good leadership and communication	○	○	○	✓	○
De-amalgamation of Inner West Council back into the previous Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils	○	○	○	○	✓

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

Q5b. Why did you vote that way?

The previous 3 separate Councils better represented their constituents. The residents of Leichhardt are currently the least represented in NSW in terms of Councillor numbers in relation to the residents.
Community is essential and has largely gone missing since amalgamation.

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 This is not true
- 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 we can keep many of the efficiencies.
- Service disruption for the community during the de-amalgamation process No worse than the forced
- Staff redundancies, loss of corporate knowledge and the appointment of an interim administrator

Period of de-amalgamation very short - easy to return to LMC. amalgamation

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

This claim is unproven and possibly untrue

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.

This is a threat and there is no reason why it would be true

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.

This does not make sense. Our rates did NOT go down when we amalgamated. Other councils, with less residents, have de-amalgamated.

Please select one response.

- O Very supportive without rate increase
- O Supportive
- O Somewhat supportive
- O Not very supportive
- O 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 with proviso that the stated costs read as threats.
- O Supportive
- O Somewhat supportive
- O Not very supportive
- O 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 No reason why we should lose services we had as separate councils.
- O Supportive
- O Somewhat supportive
- O Not very supportive
- O 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.

	1st preference	2nd preference	3rd preference
Option A – De-amalgamate and return to the service levels provided prior to amalgamation	O	O	O
Option B – De-amalgamate and maintain the service levels provided by the current Inner West Council	O	O	O
Option C – De-amalgamate and reduce to below pre-amalgamation Council service levels	O	O	O

as above.
False assumptions

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?**

We are not currently adequately represented. We can now have the benefit of savings by certain functions working across all council areas for a cost: benefit ratio.

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) The NSW Govt determining council amalgamations. We are not the only council to return to pre-amalgamation.

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

Residents of the Inner West were overwhelmingly against the amalgamations. 62.49% currently support the deamalgamation in the recent survey.

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
- O I/We currently rent this property

Q11. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?
Please select all that apply.

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

Q12. Gender:
Please select one response.

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

Q13. Do you identify as being from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse background?
Please select one response.

- O 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.

.....

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.

Inner West Council
Community Survey – De-amalgamation
2022

Thank you for your participation in this research.

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QA. Please select your age bracket:
Please select one response.

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

QB. How long have you lived in what is now the Inner West Council area?
Please select one response.

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

Q1. In which suburb do you live?
Please select one response.

- O Annandale
- O Ashbury
- O Ashfield
- O Balmain
- O Balmain East
- O Birchgrove
- O Camperdown
- O Croydon
- O Croydon Park
- O Dulwich Hill
- O Enmore
- O Haberfield
- O Hurlstone Park
- O Leichhardt
- O Lewisham
- O Lilyfield
- O Marrickville
- O Newtown
- O Petersham
- ✓ Rozelle
- O St Peters
- O Stanmore
- O Summer Hill
- O Sydenham
- O Tempe

- O 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.

- O Very satisfied
- O Satisfied
- O Somewhat satisfied
- O 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 1	2	3	4	Very important 5
Managing planning and development	O	O	O	O	✓
Environmental protection	O	O	O	O	✓
Climate change	O	O	O	O	✓
Maintaining and provision of green open spaces	O	O	O	O	✓
Traffic management/congestion	O	O	O	O	✓
Availability and access to public transport	O	O	O	O	✓
Access to parking facilities	O	O	O	O	✓
Maintaining the character/heritage/culture of the area	O	O	O	O	✓
Improving road infrastructure/maintenance of roads	O	O	O	O	✓
Council efficiency/good leadership and communication	O	O	O	O	✓
De-amalgamation of Inner West Council back into the previous Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils	O	O	O	O	✓

Concept Statement

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

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

Q5b. Why did you vote that way?

(1) Leichhardt Council was financially viable before Amalgamation

Therefore Amalgamation has been unsuccessful, dispite promises of savings.

(2) Amalgamation has reduced access to council for residents.

(3) Amalgamation has meant less democratic representation Councillors have less connection with their local

(4) communities.

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
- O Supportive
- O Somewhat supportive
- O Not very supportive
- O 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.

- O Very supportive
- O Supportive
- O Somewhat supportive
- O 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.

- O Very supportive
- O Supportive
- O Somewhat supportive
- O 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.

	1st preference	2nd preference	3rd preference
Option A – De-amalgamate and return to the service levels provided prior to amalgamation	✓	O	O
Option B – De-amalgamate and maintain the service levels provided by the current Inner West Council	O	O	O
Option C – De-amalgamate and reduce to below pre-amalgamation Council service levels	O	O	O

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?

The Amalgamation has not worked. Expectations have not been realised. A sound business case would highlight the short comings of Amalgamation Residents should have had input into preparing a business case and not asked for comment on a document that uses unfounded assumptions at the end of the process. This business case does not represent the ideas, needs and experiences of the community

Q9. How did you <u>first</u> 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?

If the previous council worked within its buget why is it now assumed that demerging will cause increased costs?

There are other assumptions that are unfounded e.g. that services have improved.

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
- O I/We currently rent this property

Q11. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?
Please select all that apply.

- O Work full time in the LGA
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- O Student
- ✓ Retired
- O Unemployed/pensioner
- O Other (please specify).....

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Please select one response.

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

Q13. Do you identify as being from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse background?
Please select one response.

- O Yes
- ✓ No

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NSW 2049

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2022

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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

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Q1. In which suburb do you live?
Please select one response.

- ☒ Annandale
- ○ Ashbury
- ○ Ashfield
- ○ Balmain
- ○ Balmain East
- ○ Birchgrove
- ○ Camperdown
- ○ Croydon
- ○ Croydon Park
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- ○ Lewisham
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- ○ Petersham
- ○ Rozelle
- ○ St Peters
- ○ Stanmore
- ○ Summer Hill
- ○ Sydenham
- ○ Tempe

- ○ Other (please specify).....

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

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Please select one response.

- [x] 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?

NO BENEFIT TO RESIDENTS

AMALGAMATION HAS RESULTED IN LOSSES

EG TWICE YEARLY H/HOLD COLLECTIONS THAT WERE ALSO A RECYCLING OPPORTUNITY FOR RESIDENTS

LOSS OF REPRESENTATION OF PRECINCT GROPS

CONTACTING COUNCIL DEPTS NOW MUCH HARDER, NEVER GET THROUGH TO RELEVANT PERSON & HAVE TO EMAIL GENERAL COUNCIL EMAIL ADDRESS.

THE WEBSITE IS INADEQUATE

DECLINE IN SERVICES GENERALLY YET RATES CONTINUE TO RISE

LOSS OF SENSE OF "COMMUNITY" WE HAD WITH LEICHHARDT COUNCIL

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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:

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- Service disruption for the community during the de-amalgamation process
- Staff redundancies, loss of corporate knowledge and the appointment of an interim administrator

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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.

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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.

	1st preference	2nd preference	3rd preference
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	○	○	○

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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?

FOR REASONS OUTLINED IN Q5b ie

NO ADVANTAGES, ONLY LOSSES

Q9. How did you <u>first</u> 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

CANNOT RECALL

- ○ Other (please specify).....

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

ECONOMIES OF SCALE DON'T APPLY IN LOCAL GOVT YOU STILL NEED SAME NUMBER OF PARKS, LIBRARIES & OTHER FACILITIES. WITH DE-AMALGAMATION EFFORT CAN BE MADE INTO WHERE NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITIES MIGHT SHARE RESOURCES.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THE HIRING OF MORRISON LOW FOR THE BUSINESS CASE SINCE THEY WERE THE SAME FIRM THAT PROVIDED THE BUSINESS CASE FOR AMALGATION. SO NOT STRICTLY INDEPENDENT. LEAVES ME HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS OF THE "BUSINESS CASE" OUTCOME.

Document Set ID: 36629596
Version: 1, Version Date: 29/07/2022

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.

- [x] 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
- [x] Unemployed/pensioner
- [ ] Other (please specify).....

Q12. Gender:
Please select one response.

- [x] 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
- [x] 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.

.....

Please post your completed survey to:

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

Document Set ID: 36629596
Version: 1, Version Date: 29/07/2022

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

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Q1. In which suburb do you live?
Please select one response.

- ○ Annandale
- ✓ Ashbury
- ○ Ashfield
- ○ Balmain
- ○ Balmain East
- ○ Birchgrove
- ○ Camperdown
- ○ Croydon
- ○ Croydon Park
- ○ Dulwich Hill
- ○ Enmore
- ○ Haberfield
- ○ Hurlstone Park
- ○ Leichhardt
- ○ Lewisham
- ○ Lilyfield
- ○ Marrickville
- ○ Newtown
- ○ Petersham
- ○ Rozelle
- ○ St Peters
- ○ Stanmore
- ○ Summer Hill
- ○ Sydenham
- ○ Tempe

- ○ Other (please specify).....

Document Set ID: 36643545
Version: 1, Version Date: 02/08/2022

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 1	2	3	4	Very important 5
Managing planning and development	○	○	○	○	⊗
Environmental protection	○	○	○	○	⊗
Climate change	○	○	○	⊗	○
Maintaining and provision of green open spaces	○	○	○	○	⊗
Traffic management/congestion	○	○	○	⊗	○
Availability and access to public transport	○	○	○	⊗	○
Access to parking facilities	○	○	⊗	○	○
Maintaining the character/heritage/culture of the area	○	○	○	⊗	○
Improving road infrastructure/maintenance of roads	○	○	○	⊗	○
Council efficiency/good leadership and communication	○	○	○	○	⊗
De-amalgamation of Inner West Council back into the previous Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils	○	○	○	○	⊗

Document Set ID: 36643545
Version: 1, Version Date: 02/08/2022

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.

- [x] 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?

I want a smaller more effective council where councillors know the suburbs and staff also know the area. Councillors in the previous smaller councils were more available to discuss issues with they were more responsive so our parks roads gardens footpaths and buildings were better looked after. Residents don't have much input now. Have Your Say is not best way. Meeting for locals residents to discuss their needs is best. Now only 9/10 Council meetings a year and not good enough. Newsletters are useless at giving information on what is important to residents. Its just full of photos of what has been! Newsletters must be at least monthly & give information like where to get help & what is coming in the future not past

Document Set ID: 36643545
Version: 1, Version Date: 02/08/2022

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.

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Version: 1, Version Date: 02/08/2022

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?

That is how I voted & have not changed my decision for what is best. Bring back all 3

Q9. How did you <u>first</u> 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?

No Kaks

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Version: 1, Version Date: 02/08/2022

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.

- [x] 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
- [x] 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.

- [x] 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.

	1st preference	2nd preference	3rd preference
Option A – De-amalgamate and return to the service levels provided prior to amalgamation	[x]	[ ]	[ ]
Option B – De-amalgamate and maintain the service levels provided by the current Inner West Council	[ ]	[ ]	[x]
Option C – De-amalgamate and reduce to below pre-amalgamation Council service levels	[ ]	[x]	[ ]

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- [ ] Work part time or casual in the LGA
- [ ] Work part time or casual outside the LGA
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- [ ] 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
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Inner West Council
Community Survey – De-amalgamation
2022

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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. IWC Started in 2016 ambiguous.

- ○ 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.

- ○ Annandale
- ○ Ashbury
- ○ Ashfield
- ○ Balmain
- ○ Balmain East
- ○ Birchgrove
- ○ Camperdown
- ○ Croydon
- ○ Croydon Park
- ○ Dulwich Hill
- ○ Enmore
- ○ Haberfield
- ○ Hurlstone Park
- ● Leichhardt
- ○ Lewisham
- ○ Lilyfield
- ○ Marrickville
- ○ Newtown
- ○ Petersham
- ○ Rozelle
- ○ St Peters
- ○ Stanmore
- ○ Summer Hill
- ○ Sydenham
- ○ Tempe

- ○ Other (please specify).....

Document Set ID: 36643547
Version: 1, Version Date: 02/08/2022

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 1	2	3	4	Very important 5
Managing planning and development	○	○	○	○	◉
Environmental protection	○	○	○	○	◉
Climate change	○	○	○	○	◉
Maintaining and provision of green open spaces	○	○	○	○	◉
Traffic management/congestion	○	○	○	◉	○
Availability and access to public transport	○	○	○	◉	○
Access to parking facilities	○	○	○	○	◉
Maintaining the character/heritage/culture of the area	○	○	○	◉	○
Improving road infrastructure/maintenance of roads	○	○	○	◉	○
Council efficiency/good leadership and communication	○	○	○	○	◉
De-amalgamation of Inner West Council back into the previous Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils	○	○	○	○	◉

Document Set ID: 36643547
Version: 1, Version Date: 02/08/2022

pushed by Darcy Byrne

Concept Statement

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

2021

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. – ie a significant result.

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.

Why are you asking this?

- ◉ 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?

Because the current Council structure is a stitch-up by Darcy Byrne + enablers and is not working for the majority of people who want access to local, accessible representation.

Document Set ID: 36643547
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Inner West Council is seeking your views on options for the way forward.

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- Some perceived service level improvements
- Better alignment of Council priorities to communities of interest.

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

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Specifically:

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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.

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De-amalgamation questions

Q5a

What did you vote for in 2021?

A: yes – support de-amalgamation

Q5b

Why did you vote that way?

A: For a number of reasons. Essentially, many residents were in the council chambers in 2015 when the then Leichhardt Mayor D.Byrne volunteered the Leichhardt Council to be merged with Marrickville and Ashfield Councils claiming it was preferable to volunteer a merge than to have one forced on the Council. But if he had sincerely wanted Leichhardt Council to remain unmerged, he could have challenged any forced merger in the courts - as other councils did, including those in Liberal-held areas.

Byrne made this move ***against the wishes of a large majority of local residents.*** *He did this because he saw it would further his own ends: to be the ruler of an enlarged electorate. He also did this to help his developer and tollway building backers get their way. Despite his feeble protestations to the contrary, he – and Labor (State and Federal) - wanted WestConnex to go ahead. And they are very welcoming of large commercial development despite the wishes of ordinary people who prefer low to medium scale housing and shops.*

So far he has succeeded. However, it has become clearer by the day that he – and Labor generally – are unsuited to running this merged empire. Byrne in particular has trashed so many aspects of process in council meetings (and community committees) making it very difficult for ordinary people to have their say in a fair way. He is rude, dismissive and childish. He does not care for the wishes of most people, unless of course he knows they are in the Labor fold. In short, he behaves very like Scott Morrison – bumptious, inept and nasty. And even worse, he models for newer Labor councillors that this is the correct way to behave.

So much for local democracy in the new amalgamated order.

Council meetings are too long, full of way too many items due to the overlarge IWC boundaries and associated complexities. Now we have 15 councillors to cover the whole area when in Leichhardt Council (and the other two) we had 12. How did that happen? Councillors are not paid employees – they offer their participation (with a small stipend) part time. How can they possibly read all the material and address the issues of a such a huge area much less make informed decisions in a reasonable time?

For residents and workers/business owners, attending meetings in person does not suit all people across this huge area. Ashfield Council rooms were chosen as supposedly the most suitable but how suitable are they for people in Birchgrove/Balmain/Annandale and Leichhardt (for example). Attending on-line is helpful for some people but not everyone has the knowledge or computer equipment to participate this way.

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Version: 1, Version Date: 02/08/2022

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.

	1st preference	2nd preference	3rd preference
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	○	●	○

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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?**

see typed comments Q5a/b & Q10

Q9. **How did you <u>first</u> 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) Word of mouth thereafter

Q.10 **Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case?**

(see typed page at back)

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Version: 1, Version Date: 02/08/2022

Q. 10

Do you have any further comments on the de-amalgamation business case

I just cannot understand why IWC engaged Morrison Low again (ie, after they had prepared a ***no-amalgamation*** *case before the 2021 Poll) to then prepare a supposed neutral "pro" and "con" case for the de-amalgamation.*

No-one seems to know how this firm were chosen. As best I know, there was no tender process. Why not?

The business case as put in the flyer we all got is nearly impenetrable and looks very skewed in favour of the status quo. It seems to be trying to scare us into keeping the current merged council on threats of higher rates and lower services. But we already have lower services and ordinary ground/maintenance workers are stretched to the max (eg cleaning out gutters, mowing verges, removing dumped household stuff etc).!!! Also our rates have recently risen and will again of course, no matter what.

Final comment: we were never told why Michael Deegan, a senior Labor plant as CEO, left the IWC in a hurry and apparently under a cloud. I believe he was paid handsomely. WHY did he leave and why weren't we told the real reasons? Plus, we never learned why the former Marrickville GM (Brian Barrett) who replaced Deegan on a short term contract, also left before his contract expired. Why did he leave in this way and why weren't we, the residents, business owners and workers told the reasons? How does all this add up to a more efficient, smooth-running amalgamated council?

Whoever is pushing for the IWC to remain as is knows that so many people across this large area are preoccupied with ordinary life challenges, stresses, Covid impacts, etc. Trying to plough through the complex, misleading words of the flyer and parts of the survey is surely aimed at making it even harder for ordinary people to make informed decisions –ie to "baffle them with bullshit". How can we possibly have any belief that this survey will be properly and transparently assessed and the results not skewed?

Leichhardt Council was never perfect, it certainly had its problems and problematic staff members at times (as well as some councillors). But overall, it worked pretty well and had a balanced budget at the time of the forced merger. It was much smaller in scale and therefore able to be more responsive in a timely way to the needs of the majority of residents, ratepayers, business owners and visitors.

PUT THE CASE TO THE GOVERNMENT TO DE-AMALGAMATE!! I WANT LEICHHARDT COUNCIL BACK.

31. 7. 22

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Q11. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?
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- ○ Unemployed/pensioner
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Q12. Gender:
Please select one response.

- ○ Male
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Q13. Do you identify as being from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse background?
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Please post your completed survey to:

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

Document Set ID: 36643547
Version: 1, Version Date: 02/08/2022

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

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Q1. In which suburb do you live?
Please select one response.

- ○ Annandale
- ○ Ashbury
- ○ Ashfield
- ○ Balmain
- ○ Balmain East
- ○ Birchgrove
- ○ Camperdown
- ○ Croydon
- ○ Croydon Park
- ○ Dulwich Hill
- ○ Enmore
- ○ Haberfield
- ○ Hurlstone Park
- ○ Leichhardt
- ○ Lewisham
- ○ Lilyfield
- ○ Marrickville
- ○ Newtown
- ● Petersham
- ○ Rozelle
- ○ St Peters
- ○ Stanmore
- ○ Summer Hill
- ○ Sydenham
- ○ Tempe

- ○ Other (please specify).....

Document Set ID: 36643548
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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 1	2	3	4	Very important 5
Managing planning and development	○	○	○	●	○
Environmental protection	○	○	○	●	○
Climate change	○	○	○	○	●
Maintaining and provision of green open spaces	○	○	○	●	○
Traffic management/congestion	○	○	○	●	○
Availability and access to public transport	○	○	○	○	●
Access to parking facilities	○	○	○	●	○
Maintaining the character/heritage/culture of the area	○	○	●	○	○
Improving road infrastructure/maintenance of roads	○	○	●	○	○
Council efficiency/good leadership and communication	○	○	○	○	●
De-amalgamation of Inner West Council back into the previous Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils	○	○	○	○	●

Document Set ID: 36643548
Version: 1, Version Date: 02/08/2022

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?

FOR SEVERAL REASONS, THE MAIN ONES BEING: (1) I BITTERLY RESENTED, AND I STILL RESENT, HAVING HAD AMALGAMATION FORCED UPON ME; (2) IN MY OPINION THE LEVEL OF COUNCIL SERVICES HAS FALLEN OFF BADLY SINCE AMALGAMATION; (3) INNER WEST COUNCIL HAS RUN DEFICIT BUDGETS SINCE IT WAS FORMED, WHILE IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE THREE FORMER COUNCILS WERE FINANCIALLY SOUND; (4) I COULD EASILY ATTEND MARRICKVILLE COUNCIL MEETINGS, AND SOMETIMES I DID SO, AS DID OTHER LOCAL RESIDENTS. IT HAS NOT PROVED CONVENIENT FOR ME TO ATTEND INNER WEST COUNCIL MEETINGS, AND IN ANY EVENT IT IS HARDLY WORTH DOING SO BECAUSE MAYOR BYRNE RUNS THEM AS IF THE INNER WEST WAS HIS PERSONAL FIEFDOM.

Document Set ID: 36643548
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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.

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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.

	1st preference	2nd preference	3rd preference
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	○	●	○

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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?**

FOR REASONS THAT BECOME FAIRLY OBVIOUS IF MY OTHER RESPONSES TO THIS SURVEY ARE CONSIDERED.

Q9. **How did you <u>first</u> 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) WORD OF MOUTH FROM OTHER INTERESTED RESIDENTS

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

I CONSIDER IT APPALLING THAT IWC ENGAGED MORRISON LOW TO PREPARE THE BUSINESS CASE. THAT TASK SHOULD HAVE BEEN PUT OUT TO TENDER AT ARMS LENGTH. IN MY VIEW THIS "SURVEY" AND COMMENTS ~~BE THE~~ IN THE "IWC DRAFT DE-AMALGAMATION BUSINESS CASE" DOCUMENT AMOUNT TO A NOT VERY CUNNING ATTEMPT TO "STITCH UP" A RESULT IN FAVOUR OF RETAINING THE IWC.

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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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De-amalgamation survey
PO Box 14 Petersham
NSW 2049

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envelope returned 15/7

Received 19/7/22

Mailed 29/7/22

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Community Survey – De-amalgamation
2022

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QA. Please select your age bracket:
Please select one response.

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

QB. How long have you lived in what is now the Inner West Council area?
Please select one response.

- O Under 6 months
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- O 11 – 20 years
- ✓ More than 20 years
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Q1. In which suburb do you live?
Please select one response.

- O Annandale
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- O Camperdown
- O Croydon
- O Croydon Park
- O Dulwich Hill
- O Enmore
- O Haberfield
- O Hurlstone Park
- O Leichhardt
- O Lewisham
- O Lilyfield
- O Marrickville
- O Newtown
- O Petersham
- O Rozelle
- O St Peters
- O Stanmore
- O Summer Hill
- O Sydenham
- O Tempe

O Other (please specify).....

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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 1	2	3	4	Very important 5
Managing planning and development	○	○	✓	○	○
Environmental protection	○	✓	○	○	○
Climate change	✓	○	○	○	○
Maintaining and provision of green open spaces	○	✓	○	○	○
Traffic management/congestion	○	○	✓	○	○
Availability and access to public transport	○	○	✓	○	○
Access to parking facilities	○	○	✓	○	○
Maintaining the character/heritage/culture of the area	○	○	○	✓	○
Improving road infrastructure/maintenance of roads	○	○	✓	○	○
Council efficiency/good leadership and communication	○	○	○	✓	○
De-amalgamation of Inner West Council back into the previous Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils	○	○	○	○	✓

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- ○ Was not a resident of IWC **(If 'Was not a resident of IWC', go to next page)**

Q5b. Why did you vote that way?

I DISAGREE THAT GEOGRAPHICAL AFFINITY IS IMPORTANT.
I DISLIKE A GREATER SOUTH OF BUREAUCRACY.
I DISAGREE THAT A HIGHER RATE-PAYING COMMUNITY MUST BE EXPECTED TO SUBSIDISE A LOWER RATE PAYING ONE.

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- Staff redundancies, loss of corporate knowledge and the appointment of an interim administrator

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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.

	1st preference	2nd preference	3rd preference
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	○	✓	○

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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?**

THE EXTRA BUREAUCRACY OF THE AMALGAMATED COUNCIL HAS JUST BEEN DEMONSTRATED BY EIGHT (8) ATTENDING SUPPORT STAFF IN EVIDENCE AT THE MAYOR'S RECENT ADDRESS IN BALMAIN TOWN HALL.

Q9. **How did you <u>first</u> 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

THE EVENT SEEMED POORLY ADVERTISED BUT AT LEAST THE ALLIANCE OUTNUMBERED THE STAFF.

- ○ Other (please specify).....

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

I STRONGLY AGREE WITH COUNCIL & MAYOR PROMOTING CAMPAIGNING ISSUES IRRELEVANT TO THEIR ROLE.
THE MAYOR SPENT THE INITIAL MINUTES OF HIS ADDRESS CRITICISING THE ABORIGINAL VOICE. THE VOICE OF ABORIGINALS HAS BEEN RAISED BY SENATOR THE LATE PATRICIA PEARL AND PATRICIA AND WAS SIGNED TO BE DEALT WITH AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL IN AUSTRALIA
THE AMALGAMATION COUNCILS AND MAYOR'S TIME SPENT ON LGA SERVICE WOULD BETTER SPENT FOR THE RATES IN DEALING ON DIVISIVE CONTENTIOUS PROPOSALS FOR OUR NARROW BACK YARDS AND OTHER EXCESSIVE OR DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS.

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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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PO Box 14 Petersham
NSW 2049

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

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2022

Thank you for your participation in this research.

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Doc No 36577564
15 JUL 2022
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QA. Please select your age bracket:
Please select one response.

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

QB. How long have you lived in what is now the Inner West Council area?
Please select one response.

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

Q1. In which suburb do you live?
Please select one response.

- ✓ Annandale
- O Ashbury
- O Ashfield
- O Balmain
- O Balmain East
- O Birchgrove
- O Camperdown
- O Croydon
- O Croydon Park
- O Dulwich Hill
- O Enmore
- O Haberfield
- O Hurlstone Park
- O Leichhardt
- O Lewisham
- O Lilyfield
- O Marrickville
- O Newtown
- O Petersham
- O Rozelle
- O St Peters
- O Stanmore
- O Summer Hill
- O Sydenham
- O Tempe

O Other (please specify).....

Document Set ID: 36666702
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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 1	2	3	4	Very important 5
Managing planning and development	○	○	○	○	✓
Environmental protection	○	○	○	✓	○
Climate change	○	○	○	✓	○
Maintaining and provision of green open spaces	○	○	○	✓	○
Traffic management/congestion	○	○	✓	○	○
Availability and access to public transport	○	○	✓	○	✓
Access to parking facilities	○	○	○	○	✓
Maintaining the character/heritage/culture of the area	○	○	○	○	✓
Improving road infrastructure/maintenance of roads	○	○	○	○	✓
Council efficiency/good leadership and communication	○	○	○	○	✓
De-amalgamation of Inner West Council back into the previous Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils	○	○	○	○	✓

Document Set ID: 36666702
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

Concept Statement

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

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

Q5b. Why did you vote that way?

* Leichardt Council was financially so much better before amalgamation. Inner West Council is now $18million in debt demonstrating bad mangement
* Our previous leichardt council was an open one for all the community. Now we have a labour council which has decided to halve the number of council meetings with community.... not democratic, showing integrity and transparency for our community. Our mayor can't even pay his rates. when wer ratepayers have to tolerate this. Where is the leadership by example.
* This already is wasting more money when The people have spoken for change already.
* The waste services and grass cutting are less frequent now and of poor quality Than with leichardt council. Contract workers do not take the same care and council employees. Nearly killed kids in bed 2 yrs ago on a Brennan St house at 12.30am at night!! Ran into back of their home off the road.

Document Set ID: 36666702
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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.

Document Set ID: 36666702
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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.

	1st preference	2nd preference	3rd preference
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	○	✓	○

Document Set ID: 36666702
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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
- O Remain as Inner West Council

Q8b. Why do you say that?

The Inner West Council is dreadful now. Its not doing things for the community first + foremost. eg. reducing public meetings by 50%.

Q9. How did you first become aware of the de-amalgamation?
Please select one response.

- O Mail out from Council
- O Council website
- O Newspaper advertisement
- O Council eNewsletter
- O ✓ Mayoral Column in local paper
- ✓ Social Media
- O Voting in December 2021

- O Other (please specify).....

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

How much is this survey costing? Why needed when already voted in December? Such wastage ratepayers is another example of why Inner West Council is so much in debt. Poor management + KPI's performance like any other business. I have lost faith totally in the current council given its behaviour & late especially. It is not demonstrating "integrity, democracy, + transparency"... this rethoric is hollow and not earning my trust and many in the community too.

Document Set ID: 36666702
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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.

.....

Please post your completed survey to:

Inner West Council

De-amalgamation survey

PO Box 14 Petersham

NSW 2049

Document Set ID: 36666702
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

INNER WEST COUNCIL
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Inner West Council
Community Survey – De-amalgamation
2022

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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.

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

QB. How long have you lived in what is now the Inner West Council area?
Please select one response.

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

Q1. In which suburb do you live?
Please select one response.

- ✓ Annandale
- O Ashbury
- O Ashfield
- O Balmain
- O Balmain East
- O Birchgrove
- O Camperdown
- O Croydon
- O Croydon Park
- O Dulwich Hill
- O Enmore
- O Haberfield
- O Hurlstone Park
- O Leichhardt
- O Lewisham
- O Lilyfield
- O Marrickville
- O Newtown
- O Petersham
- O Rozelle
- O St Peters
- O Stanmore
- O Summer Hill
- O Sydenham
- O Tempe

- O Other (please specify).....

Document Set ID: 36666707
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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.

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

Document Set ID: 36666707
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

Concept Statement

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

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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.

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

Q5b. Why did you vote that way?

INCREASED COSTS

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Document Set ID: 36666707
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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

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

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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.

Document Set ID: 36666707
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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.

- O Very supportive
- O Supportive
- O Somewhat supportive
- O Not very supportive
- O 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.

- O Very supportive
- O Supportive
- O Somewhat supportive
- O Not very supportive
- O 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.

- O Very supportive
- O Supportive
- O Somewhat supportive
- O Not very supportive
- O 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.

	1st preference	2nd preference	3rd preference
Option A – De-amalgamate and return to the service levels provided prior to amalgamation	O	O	O
Option B – De-amalgamate and maintain the service levels provided by the current Inner West Council	O	O	O
Option C – De-amalgamate and reduce to below pre-amalgamation Council service levels	O	O	O

Document Set ID: 36666707
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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.

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

Q8b. Why do you say that?

I DONT THINK WE NEED CHANGE

Q9. How did you first become aware of the de-amalgamation?
Please select one response.

- O✓ Mail out from Council
- O Council website
- O Newspaper advertisement
- O Council eNewsletter
- O Mayoral Column in local paper
- O Social Media
- O Voting in December 2021

- O Other (please specify).....

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

NO

Document Set ID: 36666707
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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
- O I/We currently rent this property

Q11. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?
Please select all that apply.

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

Q12. Gender:
Please select one response.

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

Q13. Do you identify as being from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse background?
Please select one response.

- O Yes
- ✓ No

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.....

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De-amalgamation survey

PO Box 14 Petersham

NSW 2049

Document Set ID: 36666707
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

Inner West Council
Community Survey – De-amalgamation
2022

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INNER WEST COUNCIL
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QA. Please select your age bracket:
Please select one response.

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

QB. How long have you lived in what is now the Inner West Council area?
Please select one response.

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

Q1. In which suburb do you live?
Please select one response.

- O Annandale
- O Ashbury
- O Ashfield
- O Balmain
- O Balmain East
- O Birchgrove
- O Camperdown
- ✓ Croydon
- O Croydon Park
- O Dulwich Hill
- O Enmore
- O Haberfield
- O Hurlstone Park
- O Leichhardt
- O Lewisham
- O Lilyfield
- O Marrickville
- O Newtown
- O Petersham
- O Rozelle
- O St Peters
- O Stanmore
- O Summer Hill
- O Sydenham
- O Tempe

- O Other (please specify).....

Document Set ID: 36666708
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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.

- O Very satisfied
- O Satisfied
- O Somewhat satisfied
- O Not very satisfied
- O 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....**
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	Not at all important 1	2	3	4	Very important 5
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Climate change	O	O	O	O	O
Maintaining and provision of green open spaces	O	O	O	O	O
Traffic management/congestion	O	O	O	O	O
Availability and access to public transport	O	O	O	O	O
Access to parking facilities	O	O	O	O	O
Maintaining the character/heritage/culture of the area	O	O	O	O	O
Improving road infrastructure/maintenance of roads	O	O	O	O	O
Council efficiency/good leadership and communication	O	O	O	O	O
De-amalgamation of Inner West Council back into the previous Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils	O	O	O	O	O

Document Set ID: 36666708
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

Concept Statement

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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.

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

Q5b. Why did you vote that way?

I have been satisfied with the amalgamation
& believe to deamalgamate is a waste
of time & more

Document Set ID: 36666708
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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- 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.

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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.

Document Set ID: 36666708
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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.

- O Very supportive
- O Supportive
- O Somewhat supportive
- ⊘ Not very supportive
- O 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.

- O Very supportive
- O Supportive
- O Somewhat supportive
- ⊘ Not very supportive
- O 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.

- O Very supportive
- O Supportive
- O Somewhat supportive
- ⊘ Not very supportive
- O 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.

	1st preference	2nd preference	3rd preference
Option A – De-amalgamate and return to the service levels provided prior to amalgamation	O	⊘	O
Option B – De-amalgamate and maintain the service levels provided by the current Inner West Council	⊘	O	O
Option C – De-amalgamate and reduce to below pre-amalgamation Council service levels	O	O	⊘

Document Set ID: 36666708
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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.

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

Q8b. Why do you say that?

I have been satisfied with changes.

Q9. How did you <u>first</u> become aware of the de-amalgamation?
Please select one response.

- O Mail out from Council
- O Council website
- O Newspaper advertisement
- O Council eNewsletter
- O Mayoral Column in local paper
- O Social Media
- O Voting in December 2021

- O Other (please specify).....

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

Document Set ID: 36666708
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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
- O I/We currently rent this property

Q11. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?
Please select all that apply.

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

Q12. Gender:
Please select one response.

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

Q13. Do you identify as being from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse background?
Please select one response.

- O Yes
- ✓ No

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De-amalgamation survey

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NSW 2049

Document Set ID: 36666708
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

Inner West Council
Community Survey – De-amalgamation
2022

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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

INNER WEST COUNCIL
Doc No 36602815
22 JUL 2022
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Q1. In which suburb do you live?
Please select one response.

- ○ Annandale
- ○ Ashbury
- ○ Ashfield
- ○ Balmain
- ○ Balmain East
- ○ Birchgrove
- ○ Camperdown
- ○ Croydon
- ○ Croydon Park
- ○ Dulwich Hill
- ○ Enmore
- ○ Haberfield
- ○ Hurlstone Park
- ◉ Leichhardt
- ○ Lewisham
- ○ Lilyfield
- ○ Marrickville
- ○ Newtown
- ○ Petersham
- ○ Rozelle
- ○ St Peters
- ○ Stanmore
- ○ Summer Hill
- ○ Sydenham
- ○ Tempe

- ○ Other (please specify).....

Document Set ID: 36666709
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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 1	2	3	4	Very important 5
Managing planning and development	○	○	○	○	◉
Environmental protection	○	○	○	○	◉
Climate change	○	○	○	○	◉
Maintaining and provision of green open spaces	○	○	○	○	◉
Traffic management/congestion	○	○	○	○	◉
Availability and access to public transport	○	○	○	○	◉
Access to parking facilities	○	○	○	○	◉
Maintaining the character/heritage/culture of the area	○	○	○	○	◉
Improving road infrastructure/maintenance of roads	○	○	○	○	◉
Council efficiency/good leadership and communication	○	○	○	○	◉
De-amalgamation of Inner West Council back into the previous Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils	◉	○	○	○	○

Document Set ID: 36666709
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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?**

The Amalgamated Inner West Council has been operating since 2016...6 years. Its time to live with it.

The constant Centralise Vs Decentralise of the Hospital System is like the Amalgamate Vs De-amalgamate Councils ... very frustrating, disruptive, inefficient & costly to the people.

Overall, "Councils" should be run in the most efficient manner possible as a sub-set of State Government.
There is a State Minister for Local Government. So the State has a right to amalgamate to gain efficiencies.

The State Government wanted to achieve efficiencies, which have **NOT** been fully & enthusiastically embraced or undertaken by Amalgamated Councils. Amalgamated Councils always hoped to De-amalgamate at some point.
Eg Inner West still has 3 staffed town halls in use and maintained. 2 could have been repurposed.

De-amalgamation will:
Increase the number of Councillors & costs.
cost ratepayers more.
not improve representation. same Mayor even though he was stood down 3 months before the Council election
not improve Services.
not increase staff efficiencies.
not make spending more efficient.
undo efficiencies already achieved
Increase costs to undo efficiencies achieved.

It is Estimated that de-amalgamation would cost an additional $2,25Million in Executive Staff & Councillor costs alone.

The Ratepayer gets slugged again !!

Document Set ID: 36666709
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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.

Document Set ID: 36666709
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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.

	1st preference	2nd preference	3rd preference
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	○	○	◉

Document Set ID: 36666709
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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?**

It is Estimated that de-amalgamation would cost an additional $2,25Million in Executive Staff & Councillor costs alone, without gaining efficiencies or additional, improved Services & amenities.

The Ratepayer gets slugged again !!

.....

Q9. **How did you <u>first</u> 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?**

Its been 6 years since Council amalgamation was authorised by the State. JUST EMBRACE AND LIVE WITH IT

Whilst there are strong emotive issues such as "A right to self-determination and the removal of forced amalgamation"

It would be very unlikely that an Efficient, Cost effective, Financially viable business case, could be put for De-amalgamation, for which **the Ratepayers will have to pay.**

Document Set ID: 36666709
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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.

.....

Please post your completed survey to:

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

Document Set ID: 36666709
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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

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Q1. In which suburb do you live?
Please select one response.

- ○ Annandale
- ✓ Ashbury
- ○ Ashfield
- ○ Balmain
- ○ Balmain East
- ○ Birchgrove
- ○ Camperdown
- ○ Croydon
- ○ Croydon Park
- ○ Dulwich Hill
- ○ Enmore
- ○ Haberfield
- ○ Hurlstone Park
- ○ Leichhardt
- ○ Lewisham
- ○ Lilyfield
- ○ Marrickville
- ○ Newtown
- ○ Petersham
- ○ Rozelle
- ○ St Peters
- ○ Stanmore
- ○ Summer Hill
- ○ Sydenham
- ○ Tempe

- ○ Other (please specify).....

Document Set ID: 36666721
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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 1	2	3	4	Very important 5
Managing planning and development	○	○	○	○	✓
Environmental protection	○	○	○	✓	○
Climate change	○	○	✓	○	○
Maintaining and provision of green open spaces	○	○	○	✓	○
Traffic management/congestion	○	○	○	✓	○
Availability and access to public transport	○	○	✓	○	○
Access to parking facilities	○	○	○	✓	○
Maintaining the character/heritage/culture of the area	○	✓	○	○	○
Improving road infrastructure/maintenance of roads	○	○	○	○	✓
Council efficiency/good leadership and communication	○	○	○	○	✓
De-amalgamation of Inner West Council back into the previous Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils	✓	○	○	○	○

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Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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?

THE COUNCIL CAN BE MORE EFFICIENT (SO LONG AS YOU STOP FIRING THE GM'S). SPLITTING THE COUNCIL WILL JUST INCREASE COSTS FOR NO ACTUAL IMPROVEMENT (HAVING 3 SETS OF COUNCILLORS IS JUST JOBS FOR THE BOYS/GIRLS - WASTE OF MONEY)
HAVING MORE SKILLED COUNCILLORS ON PLANNING AND ADMIN WOULD BE BETTER.

Document Set ID: 36666721
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

Q6a. 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.

RUBBISH - JUST MORE COSTS

PERCEIVED - PROVE ADVANTAGE OR REMOVE ISSUE

A JOINT INNER WEST COUNCIL CAN ACHIEVE THIS AS 3 COUNCILLORS PER WARD.

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

Q6b.

- Staff redundancies, loss of corporate knowledge and the appointment of an interim administrator

COUNCIL RUN EFFECTIVELY WHEN HAD ADMINISTRATOR - COUNCILLORS NEED TO IMPROVE.

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:

MORE COSTS - JUST GET ON AND RUN THE INNER WEST REGION

Q6c.

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.

THIS WHOLE QUESTIONAIRE IS SLATED TO De-AMALGAMATE IN BUILT BIAS

Q7.

Document Set ID: 36666721
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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?

AS STATED EARLIER (SAVE COSTS + EFFICIENCIES)

Q9. How did you <u>first</u> 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?

THE WHOLE PROCESS IS BIASED ENCOURAGING VOTERS TO DE-AMALGAMATE. REVIEW REASONS WITH REAL CASE REASONS TO DO EITHER AMALGAMATE OR DE-AMALGAMATE.

HAVING 3 GROUPS (COUNCILS) DO THE JOB OF ONE IS ~~BEAR~~ RIDICULOUS.

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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

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.....

Please post your completed survey to:

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

THIS WHOLE PROCESS SHOULD BE RUN BY IMPARTIAL STAFF WITH NO VESTED INTEREST. A PITY THE COUNCIL MEMBERS INVOLVED (POLITICS NOT GOOD ADMIN).

Document Set ID: 36666721
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

Inner West Council
Community Survey – De-amalgamation
2022

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Doc No
- 5 AUG 2022
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QA. Please select your age bracket:
Please select one response.

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

QB. How long have you lived in what is now the Inner West Council area?
Please select one response.

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

Q1. In which suburb do you live?
Please select one response.

- O Annandale
- O Ashbury
- O Ashfield
- O Balmain
- O Balmain East
- O Birchgrove
- O Camperdown
- O Croydon
- O Croydon Park
- O Dulwich Hill
- O Enmore
- O Haberfield
- O Hurlstone Park
- O Leichhardt
- O Lewisham
- O Lilyfield
- ☑ Marrickville
- O Newtown
- O Petersham
- O Rozelle
- O St Peters
- O Stanmore
- O Summer Hill
- O Sydenham
- O Tempe

- O Other (please specify).....

Document Set ID: 36668678
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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

Document Set ID: 36668678
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

Concept Statement

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

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Please select one response.

- O Yes - Support de-amalgamation
- O 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)**
- O Was not a resident of IWC **(If 'Was not a resident of IWC', go to next page)**

Q5b. Why did you vote that way?

.....

.....

.....

Document Set ID: 36668678
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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

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- Service disruption for the community during the de-amalgamation process
- Staff redundancies, loss of corporate knowledge and the appointment of an interim administrator

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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.

Document Set ID: 36668678
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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.

	1st preference	2nd preference	3rd preference
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	○	✓	○

Document Set ID: 36668678
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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?

Because before the de-amalgamation we had a better service

.....

Q9. How did you <u>first</u> 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?

.....

.....

.....

Document Set ID: 36668678
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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
- O I/We currently rent this property

Q11. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?
Please select all that apply.

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

Q12. Gender:
Please select one response.

- (✓) Male
- O Female
- O Non Binary
- O I use another term

Q13. Do you identify as being from a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse background?
Please select one response.

- (✓) Yes
- O 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.

.....

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.

Document Set ID: 36668678
Version: 1, Version Date: 08/08/2022

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.

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

INNER WEST COUNCIL
Doc No 36643544
- 2 AUG 2022
RECEIVED IN
BUSINESS INFORMATION SERVICES

QB. How long have you lived in what is now the Inner West Council area?
Please select one response.

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

Q1. In which suburb do you live?
Please select one response.

- O Annandale
- O Ashbury
- O Ashfield
- O Balmain
- ⊗ Balmain East
- O Birchgrove
- O Camperdown
- O Croydon
- O Croydon Park
- O Dulwich Hill
- O Enmore
- O Haberfield
- O Hurlstone Park
- O Leichhardt
- O Lewisham
- O Lilyfield
- O Marrickville
- O Newtown
- O Petersham
- O Rozelle
- O St Peters
- O Stanmore
- O Summer Hill
- O Sydenham
- O Tempe

- O Other (please specify).....

Document Set ID: 36712024
Version: 1, Version Date: 18/08/2022

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.

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

Document Set ID: 36712024
Version: 1, Version Date: 18/08/2022

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.

- [x] 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?

Because I thought that Council (Leichhardt) functioned better on its own, produced better local results, involved community, approachable and small. Could go on but that's enough.

Document Set ID: 36712024
Version: 1, Version Date: 18/08/2022

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.

Document Set ID: 36712024
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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.

	1st preference	2nd preference	3rd preference
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	○	○	✓

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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
- O Remain as Inner West Council

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

Prefered Services and structure prior to de-amalg.

Q9. **How did you <u>first</u> become aware of the de-amalgamation?**
Please select one response.

- O Mail out from Council
- O Council website
- O Newspaper advertisement
- O Council eNewsletter
- O Mayoral Column in local paper
- O Social Media
- O Voting in December 2021
- O Other (please specify) Community talk + all of the above

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

No

Document Set ID: 36712024
Version: 1, Version Date: 18/08/2022

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.

- [x] 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
- [x] Retired
- [ ] Unemployed/pensioner
- [ ] Other (please specify).....

Q12. Gender:
Please select one response.

- [ ] Male
- [x] 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
- [x] No although I am from such a background but born here

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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Inner West Council
De-amalgamation survey
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NSW 2049

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

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Version: 1, Version Date: 18/08/2022

Appendix L Submissions

All written submissions received by Council on the draft de-amalgamation business case have been included in this appendix, with only personal information redacted.

1

Submission on the de-amalgamation of Inner West Council

quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au, council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au

I am a resident and ratepayer of Petersham and have lived here since 2011 when this suburb was part of Marrickville Council. Prior to the amalgamation in 2016, I attended meetings at Marrickville chambers.

I support de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and the return to the former council areas of Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield.

However, before setting out my reasons I make the following comments on the process that the current Inner West Council has undertaken since the result of the December 2021 poll became known.

The process of community consultation so far

The result of the December poll seeking the community's wishes on whether to de-amalgamate the Inner West Council was clear and significant: **62.49% in favour of de-amalgamation.**

Why then has not the Inner West Council proceeded with acting on that result and preparing the case for consideration by the NSW Government? That the poll result was legally non-binding appears to be the impetus for this Council's delaying and obfuscatory tactics, coupled with scare tactics about potential high rate rises. We are now seven months on from the result and still being asked if we wish to de-amalgamate.

Now the community has been asked to reconsider the question all over again via the release of a very obscurely worded explanatory document and a confusing survey which appears to be pushing the notion that a return to former council boundaries would not be affordable or efficient. Is this delay in process deliberate?

Moreover, the consultants who were employed to promote the "NO de-amalgamate" case before the December elections (Morrison Low) have now been re-employed to purportedly put the arguments both for and against de-amalgamation. How was this organisation chosen and by whom? Why wasn't a tender process called and the results fully explained and publicised to the wider population prior to the beginning of the "consultation" process? There was no transparency in this process. More puzzling still is the inclusion in the Morrison-Low arguments from yet another private consultancy, Ernst & Young. Why have their ideas been included in this process and were they paid by Council for their advice? For balance, why weren't the opinions of independent experts on local government sought – for example, Emeritus Professor Brian Dollery (Brian Dollery - University of New England (UNE) or Professor Joseph Drew (Joseph Drew Professional Activities | University of Technology Sydney (uts.edu.au)?

And why have we, the residents and ratepayers of this vast IW Council area, only been given a week to make a submission when this was requested some months ago? Why was there an apparently sudden change of mind by Council?

Taken together, these elements raise my suspicion that some of the current Councillors and senior staff are doing their best to detract from transparent democratic processes to elicit the result they want: to preserve the status quo.

My reasons for supporting de-amalgamation:

1. The Inner West Council area is too large. It is bounded by five (5) Federal electorate areas and now has a population of approximately 200,000 – much larger than each of the State

electorates which overlap it (Summer Hill, Newtown and Balmain). How can this be regarded as truly "local" government? This in itself makes attaining strong local knowledge of a range of matters such as (over)development, rising environmental concerns, loss of open space, rate charges, street cleaning, tree preservation/removal policy etc. very difficult.

The recent draft Inner West Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan contained documents identifying four so-called catchment areas marking current and future developments and other land or cultural use. These catchments, while not exactly replicating the three former council boundaries, indicate different geographical, landuse and demographics – thereby showing that the wider LGA has very different needs and demands (and I would add, sub-cultures). Just as the three former Councils did.

2. Further to the above, the larger Inner West Council boundaries are much harder for staff (from senior levels through to on-the-ground workers) to address the range of routine needs, requirements and problems of residents, ratepayers and workers. I am aware a number of experienced senior staff with corporate knowledge of their previous councils have left (for example, former Marrickville Council lost at least two senior highly valued and knowledgeable environment managers). As local councils are meant to be the most accessible level of government but on the most limited budget of all three tiers of government, how is it possible for managers and other staff to properly address the needs and wants of the population in a timely and cost-effective manner?

3. The three former Councils, while certainly not without their problems, were as close as it gets to being genuine local democracies. Each Council had 12 councillors who were more readily available and knowledgeable about their local area. Residents could more easily access their local council chambers and could address their concerns at council meetings in a more timely manner. They could be present during debate about the issues they attended for rather than in the current system where - unless people want to stay until very late in the evening - they are forced to state their issue isolated from the agenda item and discussion/decision, then leave. This is *not* transparent, fully participatory and fair democratic process. It is totally unacceptable.

4. Moreover, residents could previously participate more easily in committees, forums and public meetings. Much of this process has been lost with the formation of the Inner West Council. For example, meeting agendas are much larger, more complex and more time-consuming. There are now 15 councillors representing the entire LGA. How can they as part-timers possibly comprehend and address the complexities of each ward, particularly if it is not their own? Leaving aside online attendance (which has been useful during Covid impacts but is not always possible or convenient for some community members), in-person Council meetings are held only at Ashfield chambers which is not easily accessible to people from some other areas of the LGA. Demographically, the majority of the IWC population resides in Marrickville so why can't meetings be at least rotated to be held at the other council chambers?

5. On the matter of budgets, I recall that prior to the forced merger, both Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils were "in the black" although Ashfield Council was not. It is my understanding the Inner West Council has been running deficit budgets. The spectre of rate rises in a de-merged council is misleading. Rates will rise no matter what council structure exists. A return to the former three Councils could still retain shared services, as before.

   Regarding the costs associated with de-amalgamating, in 2021, the State Government amended the Local Government Act *(Section 218CC).* Under Section 620, Clause 6 states the Minister must "ensure that the cost of any de-amalgamation of the new area resulting from a business case under this section is fully funded". **This has not been made clear in the IWC's publications.**

Summary

I am very concerned about the way in which the Inner West Council management and some Councillors have conducted this de-amalgamation "consultation" process.

The definitive poll result of December 2021 supporting de-amalgamation should have given the newly-elected Councillors – and existing staff – clear direction for the process to start. A much stronger, less ambiguous case should then have been prosecuted, starting with several public in-person meetings. Furthermore, tenders should have gone out for consultants to conduct the process rather than the re-employment without tender of the same consultancy that prosecuted the case for *not* de-merging prior to the December 2021 election. The tender process should then have been reviewed transparently at a Council meeting with the ability of residents to participate in/contribute to this process.

Instead, the Council has obfuscated the process by sending confusing, mixed messages in circulars and surveys which emphasise the potential losses and costs if a de-merge occurs.

In the meantime, overburdening agendas at Council meetings put undue weight on those councillors who wish to give the various items serious consideration and decisions. Staff at many levels are equally pressured. I repeat: the Inner West LGA is too large and too complex for timely, fair, and fully participatory decision-making.

Conclusion

I am led to the conclusion there are vested interests among certain Councillors and within management ranks to retain the status quo because it suits their ambitions and purposes to do so, rather than serving the needs and wishes of the majority of residents, workers and ratepayers.

This is very undemocratic and paradoxical given that local government is supposed to be the most accessible to the people it represents.

I want Inner West Council to de-amalgamate and I expect this process to be much more transparent and clear to all residents and ratepayers than it has been thus far.

Recommendation

A clear and strongly supported business case for de-amalgamation should be put to the Minister for Local Government.

[redacted]
Resident/Ratepayer
[redacted]

31 July 2022

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

Local democracy and full representation needed and restoring of open council.

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie
Subject: Submission on De-amalgamation
Date: Sunday, 31 July 2022 9:42:40 AM

Quinn Ritchie,

Attn: Inner West Council

I wish to make a submission because

1. I want local councillors who know the area.

2. I have a a voice that is listened to and valued with a smaller council.

3. As a local I want to feel connected to my local council.

4. I want my Councillors to be my neighbours and to truly understand and care about issues in my local area.

5. I want to see our heritage Council Chambers and community buildings in use again for council and resident initiated committee meetings.

6. I am not happy with the Inner West Council. Since it was formed it has run deficit budgets. The three former councils were financially sound and, for example, Leichhardt Council had a budget surplus for the 10 years previous to the amalgamation.

7. I want the better and faster responsiveness from council staff who know my local area well and genuinely care about it. This has been lost since the forced amalgamation.

8. I want council staff and Councillors with excellent local knowledge.

9. The Inner West Council is not an effective advocate on important local issues.

10. It is too big, staff are too stretched and most of the Councillors are not local.

11. The three former Councils had strong and effective advocates for their local communities.

12. I am better represented in a smaller council with fewer residents per Councillor and Councillors who all live locally.

13.. I know services are not at the level they were with the previous councils. I want a return to the service levels we had then.

14. The Inner West Council functions like a large corporation: the unelected council officers have huge powers and are not subject to resident scrutiny.

15It is a precious and important part of our community's well being to live in a genuine local democracy.

16. The former Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield Councils were as close as it gets to

being genuine local democracies: residents spoke at council meetings and then bore witnesses as the issues were debated. They participated in Committees, forums and public meetings. All this has been lost with the Inner West Council.

17. The process undertaken to develop the de-amalgamation business case by IWC is fatally flawed. It failed to undertake the community consultation that was required as per NSW Treasury guidelines before the case to de-amalgamate was developed.

19. The community consultation during the exhibition period of the current business case has also been deplorable. It is no more than blatant push-polling by a market research firm.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie
Cc: Inner West Council
Subject: SUBMISSION RE DEAMALGAMATION
Date: Sunday, 31 July 2022 3:13:51 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

Dear Sir

I am for deamalgamation on the following grounds:

1. The majority of ratepayers (62.5%) were in favour of deamalgamation and approx.68% on Balmain peninsula.
2. There is no local democracy now with Innerwest Council.
3. Innerwest has run 3 deficit budgets. Leichhardt had 10 years of surpluses.
4. Innerwest Council does not care about the state of the footpaths and other infrastructure – THEY WOULD RATHER FUND "BREAD AND CURCUSES" – free concerts, giving musicians $250 per hour to perform, free street parties.
5. There is no easy access to meetings – either physically or online.
6. The majority of councillors are not local.
7. The ratio of councillors to ratepayers is too high.
8. The COSTS OF DEAMALGATION IS BOURNE BY THE STATE HOVELRNMENT. Why are some councillors saying that is at ratepayers cost.
9. I want to see our Heritage Council chambers and buildings USED by locals – not leased out on long term leases.
10. The concept of Open Council that Leichhardt Council stated some 40 years ago has been muzzled by the present Council.
11. I want Council staff that know the local area and are not paid expensive salaries.
12. Innerwest Council is undemocratic. I want the costs of both amalgamation and deamalgamation bourne by the State Government.

I am submitting this so that the Innerwest Council PROCEEDS WITH DEAMALGAMTION without delay.

Regards [redacted]
Sent from Mail for Windows

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

- Balmain has differing needs to some of the other areas.
- More Local Representation

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

Submission on De-amalgamation

[redacted]

Thu 28/07/2022 10:32

To: Quinn Ritchie <quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>

You don't often get email from [redacted] Learn why this is important

Quinn Ritchie,

Attn: Inner West Council

I wish to make a submission on the de-amalgamation of Inner West Council. I support de-amalgamation to the former council areas of Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield for the following reasons:

1. I want easy access to council meetings in my local area.

2. I have a voice and I am listened to and valued with a smaller council.

3. I want strong local leadership from a council which is truly local.

4. As a local I want to feel connected to my local council.

5. I want my Councillors to be my neighbours and to truly understand and care about issues in my local area.

6. I want to see our heritage Council Chambers and community buildings in use again for council and resident initiated committee meetings.

7. I am not happy with the Inner West Council. Since it was formed it has run deficit budgets. The three former councils were financially sound and, for example, Leichhardt Council had a budget surplus for the 10 years previous to the amalgamation.

8. I want the better and faster responsiveness from council staff who know my local area well and genuinely care about it. This has been lost since the forced amalgamation.

9. I want council staff and Councillors with excellent local knowledge.

10. The Inner West Council is not an effective advocate on important local issues.

11. It is too big, staff are too stretched and most of the Councillors are not local.

12. The three former Councils had strong and effective advocates for their local communities.

13. I am better represented in a smaller council with fewer residents per Councillor and Councillors who all live locally.

14. I know services are not at the level they were with the previous councils. I want a return to the service levels we had then.

15. The Inner West Council functions like a large corporation: the unelected council officers have huge powers and are not subject to resident scrutiny.

16. It is a precious and important part of our community's well being to live in a genuine local democracy.

17. The former Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield Councils were as close as it gets to being genuine local democracies: residents spoke at council meetings and then bore witnesses as the issues were debated. They participated in Committees, forums and public meetings. All this has been lost with the Inner West Council.

18. The process undertaken to develop the de-amalgamation business case by IWC is fatally flawed. It failed to undertake the community consultation that was required as per NSW Treasury guidelines before the case to de-amalgamate was developed.

19. The community consultation during the exhibition period of the current business case has also been deplorable. It is no more than blatant push-polling by a market research firm.

[redacted]

Erskineville, New South Wales 2043

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sun, 31 Jul 2022 20:38:47 +1000
To: "Inner West Council" <council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: "quin.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au" <quin.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Submission arguing for de-amalgamation

Dear Council Staff and councillors,

I strongly urge Council to push along with the de-amalgamation process .

Historically, it is the less powerful groups in society that spend the most time in their local communities. I accept Covid has somewhat amended this, at least temporarily, but the historical experience still mainly holds. These groups include:

Children, teens, their carers (often in part-time employment and usually women), young tertiary students casually employed, those with a mental illness or disability, their carers (usually women and low-paid), retirees and the elderly and their carers (usually women and usually low-paid) and part time or the casually employed, the underemployed and unemployed generally.

It is therefore **precisely these groups that have a greater stake in keeping the local truly local, in truly having an empowered voice in government and having a truly accessible government at the level that seriously affects them.** The Inner West Council comes nowhere close to doing any of this compared with the old Leichhardt Council. I feel de-powered as a democratic citizen by IWC and its processes. I felt empowered to participate democratically by Leichhardt Council and its processes.

1) It's greatly more stressful as someone time-poor (most people), to get to Council meetings geographically removed. Livestreaming and zoom is no substitute for satisfying democratic participation or for facing people in a room and having them face you when they debate and make their decisions.

2) The agendas are so huge at IWC that time has to be managed tightly. The quality of debate and discussion is therefore poor and we see the tight-time rules being applied 100% of the time instead of 80% of the time. Issues don't get the attention they deserve if they even make it to the agenda. The public speak at the beginning and then are either dismissed or have to wait around for hours to hear their item discussed and be faced live by reps when they vote. At Leichhardt Council with

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smaller agendas, the councillors would prioritise items depending on how many from public there and discuss, debate and vote in front of the public who had come for their item.

3) There are way too many issues for ward councillors to be on top of now. It's not fair on them or us. We don't get represented on some stuff because they are so busy

4) Councillors are much more effective at representing wards when the wards are smaller and they live and/or are immersed in them most days of the week.

5) There is competition and sensitivities about how much attention is given to different ward areas and overcorrection by some councillors to not seem biased on this so that one's local ward issues get lost again

6) Glorious council chambers and other council buildings should stay in public use for council meetings and other local matters of social value.

7. , Leichhardt Council had a budget surplus for the 10 years previous to the amalgamation. Now we carry the debts of the imposed amalgamation process to suit the ideological agenda of a State Liberal party of dubious integrity and the other wards.

8 The business case is superficial and did not seek wide input from residents including on all the hidden costs of amalgamation versus hidden benefits of de-amalgamation.

9) I want the better and faster responsiveness from council staff who know my local area well and genuinely care about it. This has been lost since the forced amalgamation.

10) I want council staff and Councillors with excellent local knowledge.

11) The Inner West Council has shown no advocacy to the state government's planning edicts that continue to see local character and heritage demolished for eg. Or on the brutal impact of current CDC arrangements that literally kill people from the stress related to property developers violating the amenity of their homes with 2 weeks piddling notice, no right of reply for neighbours or Council. Where is IWC's advocacy on any of this stuff? They do not take up few issues that matter to locals with the state govt as far as I can see.

12). Staff seem way less accessible and way more likely to turn over quickly in IWC

13. I know services are not at the level they were with the previous councils. I want a return to the service levels we had then.

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14. The Inner West Council functions like a large corporation: the unelected council officers have huge powers are not under subject to the same accountability to councillors and the community as they were at Leichardt Council

15. The local democracy groups are hard to access whilst the recent new forums are no substitute for the old precinct meetings – they seem tokenistic.

Kind Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

Lilyfield

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To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

I want strong local leadership from a council which is truly local

I am not happy with the Inner West Council. Since it was formed it has run deficit budgets

I know services are not at the level they were at ~~if~~ with Leichardt Council.

I support the de-amalgamation proceeding. ! ! !

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted] 30/7/22

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie
Subject: Submission on De-amalgamation
Date: Sunday, 31 July 2022 7:07:18 PM

Quinn Ritchie,

Attn: Inner West Council

I strongly support the de-amalgmation of the Inner West Council into its former local LGAs.

I opposed the amalgamation of Marrickville Council, with Leichhardt and Ashfield, into the combined mega Inner West Council, since the concept was first mooted. The experience of the past 6 years of IWC have confirmed that my concerns and objections to the merger were well founded.

All the negative impacts that I, and many others, predicted would happen with a mega council, did in fact eventuate. I feel disempowered and alienated from genuine local representation with this current council.

I voted "yes" to de-amalgamate at the last council election. I have been very disappointed and unhappy at how that mandate of the electorate has been processed by the Mayor and his Labor cohort, and I am not at all certain that they have pushed forward a convincing case to the state government for de-merger, via the Morrison Low report.

I do not think the current online survey regarding the de-merger case has been satisfactory or transparent, and it seems inherently biased against the de-merger. I completed the online survey but I felt constrained by its format and questions, so I am now submitting this letter in addition to the survey.

I am utilising the following prepared list of points, as this clearly articulates all my reasons and expresses my personal opinion - therefore please accept this as my individual submission:

1. I want easy access to council meetings in my local area.

2. I have a voice and I am listened to and valued with a smaller council.

3. I want strong local leadership from a council which is truly local.

4. As a local I want to feel connected to my local council.

5. I want my Councillors to be my neighbours and to truly understand and care about issues in my local area.

6. I want to see our heritage Council Chambers and community buildings in use again for council and resident initiated committee meetings.

7. I am not happy with the Inner West Council. Since it was formed it has run deficit budgets. The three former councils were financially sound and, for example, Leichhardt Council had a budget surplus for the 10 years previous to the amalgamation.

8. I want the better and faster responsiveness from council staff who know my local area well and genuinely care about it. This has been lost since the forced amalgamation.

9. I want council staff and Councillors with excellent local knowledge.

10. The Inner West Council is not an effective advocate on important local issues.

11. It is too big, staff are too stretched and most of the Councillors are not local.

12. The three former Councils had strong and effective advocates for their local communities.

13. I am better represented in a smaller council with fewer residents per Councillor and Councillors who all live locally.

14. I know services are not at the level they were with the previous councils. I want a return to the service levels we had then.

15. The Inner West Council functions like a large corporation: the unelected council officers have huge powers and are not subject to resident scrutiny.

16. It is a precious and important part of our community's well being to live in a genuine local democracy.

17. The former Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield Councils were as close as it gets to being genuine local democracies: residents spoke at council meetings and then bore witnesses as the issues were debated. They participated in Committees, forums and public meetings. All this has been lost with the Inner West Council.

18. The process undertaken to develop the de-amalgamation business case by IWC is fatally flawed. It failed to undertake the community consultation that was required as per NSW Treasury guidelines before the case to de-amalgamate was developed.

19. The community consultation during the exhibition period of the current business case has also been deplorable. It is no more than blatant push-polling by a market research firm.

[redacted]
[redacted]

Marrickville, New South Wales 2204

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

Our needs in leichhart Council is not being fulfilled.

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

From: yes deamalgamate
To: Quinn Ritchie
Subject: Fwd: Deamalgamation
Date: Friday, 29 July 2022 11:35:42 AM

Forwarded message. Thank you.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: [redacted]
Date: Thu, Jul 28, 2022 at 8:15 PM
Subject: Fwd: Deamalgamation
To: <yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com>

Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted]
Subject: Deamalgamation
Date: 28 July 2022 at 8:12:36 pm AEST
To: council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au

Hi,

I'm a resident of Leichhardt and wish to impress upon the council my view that the inner west council be separated back into the original Leichhardt, Ashfield and Marrickville councils.

My reasoning is simple. As a Leichhardt resident, we have both lost services and had cost increases under the amalgamation. As a ratepayer I find local government issues have gone backward.

Please register my vote for deamalgamation.

[redacted]

[redacted] Leichhardt.

--
We acknowledge the Gadigal-Wangal people of the Eora Nation. Sovereignty was never ceded.

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

I would like a more transparent and accessible system that listens to my concerns.

Currently bi annual council clean ups have been scrapped for individual clean up bookings. I have heard very little support for this new system and yet Council don't listen. That is just one example. There are many more.

With a more local council we could have a greater say over recycling, clean ups, access issues etc.

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is:

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

Inner West has lost the local voice.

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
[redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie; Inner West Council
Subject: Deamalgamation Submission
Date: Sunday, 31 July 2022 6:05:09 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [redacted]
Learn why this is important

I strongly support the deamalgamation back to the original three separate councils for the following reasons/considerations. I don't agree with the options provided in the business case/survey, and suggest deamalgamation using a shared services model is the best outcome which balances pros and cons.

1. Shared services are the obvious way that the deamalgamation should proceed, as it brings the benefits of a merged council with the benefits of a dealamagamated council. Why was this the only option not modelled? The two other options were based on a myriad of assumptions (none of which are likely to be accurate), yet it is somehow not possible to model a shared services option, using reasonable assumptions? This strongly suggests MorrisonLow/IWC does not like the outcome that it provides.

2. The report does not mention that the original intention of the amalgamation was to save money, and yet the Inner West council continues to run budget deficits. Even the Mayor regularly states in the media that the IWC did not receive its fair share of funding from the NSW government to fund the costs of amalgamation. Yet now we are expected to believe that deamagamation back to the original state would lead to an even worse financial position?

3. Marrickville residents (some of the poorest in the LGA) are facing huge increases in rates to pay for the failed amalgamation, whilst wealthy suburbs have their rates decreased.

4. The stated increase in rates for Marrickville council area of $87 for Option A or $297 for Option B fail to take into account that Marrickville residents will already be facing an increase of approximately the same as Option B if they stay with IWC due to rates harmonisation.

5. In the income statements of the business case, IWC has $44,198,000 for Grants & contributions – capital for 2024, whereas the sum from each individual council under scenarios A & B are $8,840,000. There is no explanation as to why this has been made as an assumption.

6. Services are still not harmonised, the report fails to mention that Marrickville residents do not receive the same service as Leichardt residents under IWC. This has been proven by the data released on verge mowing and street cleaning, and the Council are yet to provide me with an adequate answer as to why this is the case.

7. The customer service from staff at IWC has been very poor. Staff do not appear to

genuinely care about important issues I have raised, there is no culture of accountability, local knowledge has been lost and community consultation seems half-hearted.

8. Services from IWC have been very poor and are drastically worse than they were under Marrickville Council.

9. Representation is very poor from IWC. Councillors seem rushed off their feet trying to cope with the workload.

10. Under IWC, noting is nearby or convenient for Marrickville residents (e.g. council offices, waste facilities).

11. Why are we being asked this question again when a clear majority have only just voted yes with very similar information on costs? It feels like IWC are hoping to wear people down by continual scare-mongering and asking the same questions - hoping for a different answer. The previous figures provided before the poll were similar and residents still opted to deamalgamate. This was not made clear in the flyer or in the business case and has been very misleading to suggest that rates will be significantly higher than they would otherwise be.

Regards,

[redacted]

[redacted]Tempe

From: "Clr Marghanita Da Cruz" <marghanita.da.cruz@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Sun, 24 Jul 2022 12:06:58 +1000
To: "Councillors" <support.councillors@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Demerger business case and process

Please find comments and questions from the community (I had difficulty connecting over MS Teams could we use Zoom for community consultation such as this):
This "consultation" was reduced to attendees only being able to ask questions. A number, myself included, were unable to ask questions because of difficulties with the software.

This is the only "face-to-face" opportunity for residents to be "consulted".

The Morrison Low de-amalgamation proposal has not been written as a serious proposal to demerge — as voted for by 62.5% of the community last December.
Instead, it just goes through motions and ticks certain boxes and therefore has little chance of being approved.

The 5 top questions of many that I was going to ask are:
1. The most decent letter-boxed IWC flyer states: "The next step, if de-amalgamation proceeds, is to develop a plan to minimise or mitigate against the impact of these risks on the community." Is this an admission that the Morrison Low (ML) report is not in fact a de-amalgamation proposal but a tick-box exercise?
2. How will the Boundaries Commission recommend or the Minister approve a business proposal that has not properly addressed the risks identified?
3. The new modelling in the latest ML business case has raised the ongoing demerger "costs" from $22 million $24 million. Do you agree that the community already knew of the costs before 62.5% voted to demerge and therefore voted that way for other reasons which are equally as important?
4. We were informed that the ML business case was done at a "high level", not by detailed budget and based on a total budget that existed 8 years ago adjusted for service and cost changes. How can a plan to return to what existed before, with a theoretical calculation based on 2014-1015 structures be given to the NSW government as a concrete plan to move forward to demerge the IWC?
5. Why didn't the IWC council follow the NSW Treasury guidelines? The guidelines say input from all stakeholders must happen before the proposal is developed. One question asked was if library services could be shared. This is the type of question that would best be considered before the proposal was written.
[redacted]

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Version: 1, Version Date: 25/07/2022

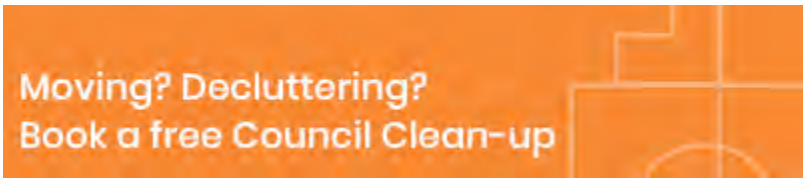
Additionally we need to know the community's attitude to not what is to be shared but what needs to be localised.
Marghanita

———

Clr Marghanita da Cruz
Gulgadya - Leichhardt Ward, Inner West Council
Phone: 0490-788-943
Blog: https://perambuler.ramin.com.au/search/label/Clr%20Marghanita%20da%20Cruz
Web: https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/about/the-council/mayor-and-councillors

Clr Marghanita Da Cruz
Leichhardt Ward - Gulgadya (Grass Tree)
p 0490 788 943 e marghanita.da.cruz@innerwest.nsw.gov.au

Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of these lands, the Gadigal-Wangal people of the Eora Nation.



Document Set ID: 36611257
Version: 1, Version Date: 25/07/2022

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie; Inner West Council
Cc: yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com,
Subject: Submission on the Deamalgamation Proposal
Date: Sunday, 31 July 2022 8:51:14 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [redacted] Learn why this is important

Dear Quinn Ritchie

Having been involved in this amalgamation debate for over seven years and having studied all the deamalgamtion proposals submitted to date and
as the technology at the online forum did not enable me to ask questions this submission is in two parts I submit the following

a) a series of questions that I would appreciate an answer before proposal goes to council in September so they can be community communicated to the community

and b) a number of comments on the documents made available to date

a) Questions

1 Who decided that analysis would be at a high level and not a detailed zero based budget and why?

2 Who wrote the questions for the survey?

3 Who decided a third option C with reduced services be introduced in the survey when it has not been detailed, costed or discussed by Morrison Low?

4 Why did the council not follow the Treasury Guidelines? These guidelines say community consultation should happen as the proposal is being developed.

5 Why were all the projections done on what appears to be a calendar year basis when all local government reporting is done on a financial year basis?
This makes comparisons with the current Inner West Council and previous reports very difficult

6 Why does the flyer and the survey talk of the appointment of an administrator when the Mayor has written to Minister saying that no administrator should be appointed?

7 The figures in tables 9 and 15 changes to ongoing rates and annual charges of zero in option A and loss of $7.3 million in option Bm.Therefore how can the income statements provided tables 17 ,18 and `
19 option B only show a difference in ongoing rates and annual charges rom tables 11,12 and 13 Option A with loss of only $1.5 Million?

8 It is unclear if the letter from the Mayor to the Minister asking for written assurance about costs in a precondition before the demerger proposal is to be made or if the assurance is to be included as part of the proposal. Could the Mayor confirm which of these is correct?

9 The scales in the survey are I misleading

are	should be
Very Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Satisfied	Satisfied
Somewhat satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied
Not very satisfied	Dissatisfied
Nat at all satisfied	Very dissatisfied

Can you explain for instance how " Not very satisfied" is worse than “Somewhat satisfied"?

10 The proposal states that there is to be no review of the amalgamation results but the General Manager on the forum and elsewhere talk of $20 million savings without any substantiation

The merger proposal projected the Inner West Council would have a surplus of $38 million in 2022/23. The council is now projecting a deficit of $0.7 Million. The analysis by Morrison Low shows additional services and costs of $24 million being spent above previous councils. This leave $14 million surplus unaccounted for that was promised in the amalgamation proposal.Could the General Manager please explain this difference?

b) Comments on the papers presented and changes suggested in the proposal

1 The Audit and Risk committee stated that the proposal was not good enough and did not cover the risks of the demerger. The council has engaged Ernst and Young to identify the risks but that report is not available.

The flyer says “The next step, if deamalgamtion proceeds, is to develop a plan to minimise or mitigate against the impact of these risks on the community”

This is the fundamental admission that this is not a plan being put to the Minister to manage a demerger as it will be addressed after the Minister has decided whether to proceed.

How will the Boundaries Commission recommend or the Minister approve a business proposal that has not properly addressed the risks identified.

2 In the presentation of the survey of community before the poll, over one and a half pages were given to the community consultation before the Poll

413 participants viewed the webpage while 122 responded to the survey plus 25 responded in an petition with even a graph showing the location of 122 participents

When it came to the poll the proposal stated 65,126 voted to demerge. there was just one pie chart showing the resulrts of the poll. To demonstrate to the Boundaries Commission and the Minister It essential to show the voting by booth and or council area which showed the strength of the vote to demerge across the previous councils.

3 The new modelling has increased the ongoing merger costs from $22 million that was communicated before the poll to $24million. The community clearly understood the costs of demerger wh

and voted to demerge as this cost was outweighed by the other benefits that the analysis did not quantify. This fact should be made clear in the proposal and just stating benefits cannot be quantified

needs more explanation.

4 It was stated the proposal was done at a high level not at a budget or function level and was based on functions, budget that existed 8 years ago adjusted for service changes.

Without this detail this proposal does not appear to be, as the community wished,a concrete plan to demerge from where the council is today.

It is a plan to go back to what existed before with a theoretical calculation based on 2014/15 structures. This clearly makes risk mitigation, consideration of shared services and

transition planning extremely difficult.

5 Service levels are talked of a great deal in the proposal but no real details are supplied.Without plans by budget there is no real idea where the additional $24 milliion is being spent .

All we are told is $2.25 Million is being spent on executives and councillors. The proposal states that there would be an increase of 115 positions in the demerged three councils.

The community cannot make any judgement on the proposal unless it knows in what budgets/service these positions are .

6 There is the implied assumptions in the proposal that service levels in the current Inner West Council are better that in the previous councils. This must be detailed by numbers now and projected in each services and cost?

7 A question asked at the forum was if library services could be shared and this type of question should have best considered before proposal was written as suggested in the Treasury guidelines, The claim that the Treasury Guidelines were being followed does not appear to be substantiated.

8 The assumption in the proposal, flyer and survey that rates must be increased to cover the deficit put first at potential costs.The way it is put in the documents is misleading as

if it is the only solution.The rates are not a cost to the council as in implied but a way of funding

cost increases in the council operations. Surely productivity improvements in the operations would be considered beforerate increases

9 If the Council does not want an Administrator appointed then the proposal must detail how that can be achieved as was done in the Cootamundra Gundagai proposal?
There was no transition plan including use of current councillors etc or timing of the demerger included in the proposal which is a serious failing.
The proposal is clearly lacking in this detail and thus the Minister would have no option but to reject the proposal or if approved appoint an administrator.
Again an indication that this is not a serious proposal to demerge

10 To make the projections made credible, there needs to be an explanation in the proposal how Leichhardt which was making $6 million surplus in 2014/ 15 is now is now projecting a deficit of $5.2 million in 2023.Figures supplied in table 15 show new services and costs to have an impact of $5.7 million. So there is about $% million unexplained.

11 Shared services.There was a number of pages on why shared services do not work and were difficult to manage. Then an example that in technology there could be savings. But then a statement in Executive Summary " shared services could be considered by the deamalgamted councils if the deamalgamtion goes ahead".Again this shows that the proposal is not a proposal planning to demerge but a proposal why the current shared services should not be kept
The community was not given the opportunity to indicate services that could be kept in a central role in the survey ben asking ifif the community really thought it important that their council had their own accounts department and IT system

12 Staff survey The staff survey of 1336 employees where 59 % responded showed 71 % wished to remain as one council.
The other side of this is that 58% of the total did not want to demerge or did not bother to complete the survey. The wishes of the staff is understandable and could be impacted by the proposal plan to return to structures of 8 years ago which many would not know or understand. If the proposal was to keep the same structures and budgets but split into three councils or potentially with some centralised services remaining as is, it would be interesting to see what the results would be.

Overall without a detailed transition plan including avoidance of administration, risk mitigation and unclear position on the payments for costs for 10 years, the proposal does not appear to be a plan that has a chance of being approved by the Minister and thus meet the wishes of the community to demerge.

I look forward to answers to the questions above and that the points above are reported in the review of consultation and are considered for changes in the proposal to be submitted

Regards

[redacted]

Submission on De-amalgamation

[redacted]

Thu 28/07/2022 11:47

To: Quinn Ritchie <quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>

You don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

Quinn Ritchie,

Attn: Inner West Council

I wish to make a submission on the de-amalgamation of Inner West Council. I support de-amalgamation to the former council areas of Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield for the following reasons:

1. I want easy access to council meetings in my local area.

2. I have a voice and I am listened to and valued with a smaller council.

3. I want strong local leadership from a council which is truly local.

4. As a local I want to feel connected to my local council.

5. I want my Councillors to be my neighbours and to truly understand and care about issues in my local area.

6. I want to see our heritage Council Chambers and community buildings in use again for council and resident initiated committee meetings.

7. I am not happy with the Inner West Council. Since it was formed it has run deficit budgets. The three former councils were financially sound and, for example, Leichhardt Council had a budget surplus for the 10 years previous to the amalgamation.

8. I want the better and faster responsiveness from council staff who know my local area well and genuinely care about it. This has been lost since the forced amalgamation.

9. I want council staff and Councillors with excellent local knowledge.

10. The Inner West Council is not an effective advocate on important local issues.

11. It is too big, staff are too stretched and most of the Councillors are not local.

12. The three former Councils had strong and effective advocates for their local communities.

13. I am better represented in a smaller council with fewer residents per Councillor and Councillors who all live locally.

14. I know services are not at the level they were with the previous councils. I want a return to the service levels we had then.

15. The Inner West Council functions like a large corporation: the unelected council officers have huge powers and are not subject to resident scrutiny.

16. It is a precious and important part of our community's well being to live in a genuine local democracy.

17. The former Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield Councils were as close as it gets to being genuine local democracies: residents spoke at council meetings and then bore witnesses as the issues were debated. They participated in Committees, forums and public meetings. All this has been lost with the Inner West Council.

18. The process undertaken to develop the de-amalgamation business case by IWC is fatally flawed. It failed to undertake the community consultation that was required as per NSW Treasury guidelines before the case to de-amalgamate was developed.

19. The community consultation during the exhibition period of the current business case has also been deplorable. It is no more than blatant push-polling by a market research firm.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sun, 31 Jul 2022 21:42:52 +1000
To: "Inner West Council" <council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Business case for deamalgamation
Attachments: Submission to IW Council re deamalgamation.DOCX

Dear Council
I have sent a personal submission rather than do the survey.
Please include in the community feedback.

[redacted]

Document Set ID: 36644431
Version: 1, Version Date: 02/08/2022

Innerwest Council.

I have reviewed the de-amalgamation business case report prepared by Morrison Low exhibited for public comment.

I am a former employee of Leichhardt Council (1982-1996) and as a local planning consultant (Burrell Threlfo Pagan Pty Ltd- BTP) have a lot of contact with Council on development matters. BTP has also been engaged by Leichhardt, Marrickville, Ashfield and Innerwest Councils for a number of minor consultancy projects over the last 20 years.

I am also a long term resident of all 3 former Council areas and have had interaction with Council with my involvements with various local sporting clubs and community organisations.

From my discussions with my friends, acquaintances and professional colleagues, the issue of Council de-amalgamation is not a matter of concern. Many said they voted yes in the referendum without thinking about it.

I note that the report did not identify any significant problems arising from the amalgamation.

I note that the community consultation in August report did not identify any significant problems arising from the amalgamation.

If there is a concern that there are fewer Councillors to respond to resident's concerns, the simple solution is to increase the number of Councillors rather than de-amalgamate the 3 Councils.

I also note that the staff are not enthusiastic about de-amalgamation. I have weekly contact with Council staff on various issues and can understand their concerns.

My conclusions are:

- There are no identified deficiencies with Council services in the report that would justify de-amalgamation,
- There is no substantial community concern with the outcome of the amalgamation
- It will be a waste of Council administrative and financial resources to de-amalgamate
- De-amalgamation will result with delays in the provisions of Council services

[redacted]

Document Set ID: 36644431
Version: 1, Version Date: 02/08/2022

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the [redacted]

[redacted]

Suburb: Balmain

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

- The service levels of the Inner West Council are far below what they were under the Leichhardt council & I would like to see a return to the Leichhardt Council.
- The Leichhardt council was in surplus before amalgamation whereas the inner west council is in deficit.
- I want the heritage Leichhardt council chambers to be used for council meetings
- The streets in the former Leichhardt council area are not maintained as they were prior to amalgamation. This relates to weeds, drain maintenance, pot holes and grass on the nature strips often grows past knee length in the Balmain area.
- Waste Collection wheelie bins are often missed at collection.
- One model does not work across the whole inner west council area. Ie parking permits
- Large amounts of rate payers money is being wasted on unnecessary art projects and the play equipment park designs are not suited to ages above 7 years of age, resulting in less outdoor activity for older children.
- The new council clean-up model of booked collection is not feasible, due to too many categories & proper consultations with the community was not undertaken prior to its implementation.

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed:

[redacted]

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

I worked with a number of local councils in the arts/community arts initiatives and since amalgamation I've seen it negatively impact on local arts programs + artists, + community members who would have previously benefited.

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

YES to De-amalgamation of Inner West Council

[redacted]

Thu 28/07/2022 14:54

To: Quinn Ritchie <quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>;Inner West Council <council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>;yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com <yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com>

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [redacted]
Learn why this is important

I would like to see the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council to go ahead.

Since the amalgamation of the inner west councils the service to the rate payers has somewhat suffered. In the 29 years that I have resided in the area I have never seen it in such an unkempt state.

Please accept this correspondence as a YES from me to de-amalgamate!

Warmest regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sat, 30 Jul 2022 20:01:06 +1000
To: "Inner West Council" <council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Council demerger

I know services are not at the level they were at with Leighhardt Council. I want a return to the service levels we had with Leichhardt Council.

[redacted]

Document Set ID: 36639560
[redacted] Version Date: 01/08/2022

From: [redacted]
Subject: Submission on De-amalgamation
Date: Sunday, 31 July 2022 10:57:01 PM

Quinn Ritchie,

Attn: Inner West Council

I wish to make a submission on the de-amalgamation of Inner West Council. I support de-amalgamation to the former council areas of Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield.

The councils were only amalgamated to push Westconnex through.

I voted for deamalgamation and agree with all of the following reasons set out by Residents for Deamalgamation:

1. I want easy access to council meetings in my local area.

2. I have a voice and I am listened to and valued with a smaller council.

3. I want strong local leadership from a council which is truly local.

4. As a local I want to feel connected to my local council.

5. I want my Councillors to be my neighbours and to truly understand and care about issues in my local area.

6. I want to see our heritage Council Chambers and community buildings in use again for council and resident initiated committee meetings.

7. I am not happy with the Inner West Council. Since it was formed it has run deficit budgets. The three former councils were financially sound and, for example, Leichhardt Council had a budget surplus for the 10 years previous to the amalgamation.

8. I want the better and faster responsiveness from council staff who know my local area well and genuinely care about it. This has been lost since the forced amalgamation.

9. I want council staff and Councillors with excellent local knowledge.

10. The Inner West Council is not an effective advocate on important local issues.

11. It is too big, staff are too stretched and most of the Councillors are not local.

12. The three former Councils had strong and effective advocates for their local communities.

13. I am better represented in a smaller council with fewer residents per Councillor and Councillors who all live locally.

14. I know services are not at the level they were with the previous councils. I want a return to the service levels we had then.

15. The Inner West Council functions like a large corporation: the unelected council officers have huge powers and are not subject to resident scrutiny.

16. It is a precious and important part of our community's well being to live in a genuine local democracy.

17. The former Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield Councils were as close as it gets to being genuine local democracies: residents spoke at council meetings and then bore witnesses as the issues were debated. They participated in Committees, forums and public meetings. All this has been lost with the Inner West Council.

18. The process undertaken to develop the de-amalgamation business case by IWC is fatally flawed. It failed to undertake the community consultation that was required as per NSW Treasury guidelines before the case to de-amalgamate was developed.

19. The community consultation during the exhibition period of the current business case has also been deplorable. It is no more than blatant push-polling by a market research firm.

[redacted]

From: "Clr Marghanita Da Cruz" <marghanita.da.cruz@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Wed, 27 Jul 2022 15:39:32 +1000
To: "Prue Foreman" <Prue.Foreman@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>;"Councillors" <support.councillors@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: "Carmelina Giannini" <Carmelina.Giannini@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Processes on DAs Fwd: Letter on the demerger

Hi Prue,
Is the review reported to council?
Marghanita

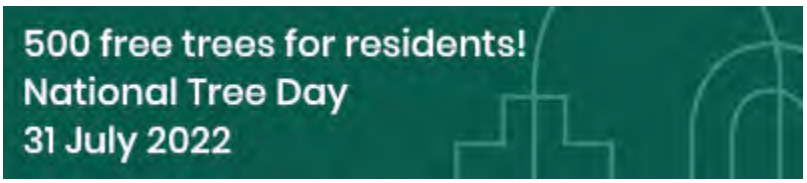
———

Clr Marghanita da Cruz
Gulgadya - Leichhardt Ward, Inner West Council
Phone: 0490-788-943
Blog: https://perambuler.ramin.com.au/search/label/Clr%20Marghanita%20da%20Cruz
Web: https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/about/the-council/mayor-and-councillors

Clr Marghanita Da Cruz
Leichhardt Ward - Gulgadya (Grass Tree)
p 0490 788 943 e marghanita.da.cruz@innerwest.nsw.gov.au

INNER WEST

Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of these lands, the Gadigal-Wangal people of the Eora Nation.



From: Prue Foreman <Prue.Foreman@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, July 27, 2022 3:33:48 PM
To: Clr Marghanita Da Cruz <marghanita.da.cruz@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>; Councillors <support.councillors@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Carmelina Giannini <Carmelina.Giannini@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Processes on DAs Fwd: Letter on the demerger

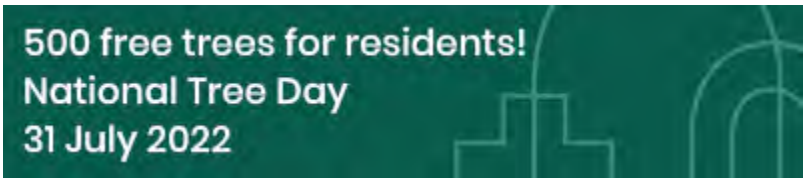
Hi Marghanita,
The community satisfactions surveys are not quite annual – we did one in 2016/2017/2018 and 2021. The questions are reviewed each time but we aim to maintain some continuity as the value is in comparing responses over time.

Document Set ID: 36622383
Version: 1, Version Date: 27/07/2022

Kind regards,

Prue Foreman
Corporate Strategy and Engagement Manager
p +61 2 9335 2096 e Prue.Foreman@innerwest.nsw.gov.au

Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of these lands, the Gadigal-Wangal people of the Eora Nation.



From: Clr Marghanita Da Cruz <marghanita.da.cruz@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, 27 July 2022 3:32 PM
To: Prue Foreman <Prue.Foreman@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>; Councillors <support.councillors@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Carmelina Giannini <Carmelina.Giannini@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Processes on DAs Fwd: Letter on the demerger

Hi Prue,

Micromex is commissioned by council to undertake Annual surveys. When are the questions they ask reviewed?

Even ABS asks for input and reviews their questions before each census.

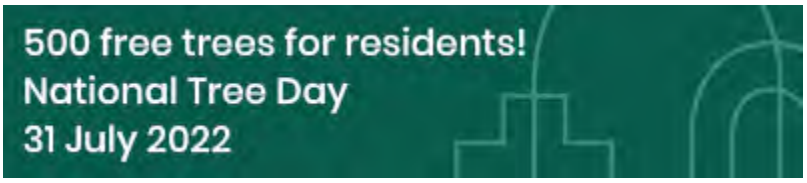
Marghanita

——
Clr Marghanita da Cruz
Gulgadya - Leichhardt Ward, Inner West Council
Phone: 0490-788-943
Blog: https://perambuler.ramin.com.au/search/label/Clr%20Marghanita%20da%20Cruz
Web: https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/about/the-council/mayor-and-councillors

Clr Marghanita Da Cruz
Leichhardt Ward - Gulgadya (Grass Tree)
p 0490 788 943 e marghanita.da.cruz@innerwest.nsw.gov.au

Document Set ID: 36622383
Version: 1, Version Date: 27/07/2022

Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of these lands, the Gadigal-Wangal people of the Eora Nation.



From: Prue Foreman <Prue.Foreman@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Wednesday, July 27, 2022 3:13:22 PM
To: Clr Marghanita Da Cruz <marghanita.da.cruz@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>; Councillors <support.councillors@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Carmelina Giannini <Carmelina.Giannini@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Processes on DAs Fwd: Letter on the demerger

Hi Marghanita,
In response to the resident email:

- The survey was not push-polling, but an unbiased questionnaire hosted by an independent researcher that was designed to draw out community sentiment
- It presented a balanced position of reasons for and against de-amalgamation
- It sought to understand the reasons behind people's vote in the poll, a sense of how important de-amalgamation was in comparison to other priorities for Council (both unprompted and prompted), and to understand the preference for service levels if de-amalgamation were to proceed
- Micromex is a well-respected research company that has operated for over 30 years, including research for Local Government since 2000. The survey was conducted in accordance with The Research Society Code of Professional Behaviour

I will include the resident comments in the collation of feedback for the community engagement report.

I will ask Harjeet to respond to the comments about the DA.

Kind regards,

Prue Foreman
Corporate Strategy and Engagement Manager
p +61 2 9335 2096 e Prue.Foreman@innerwest.nsw.gov.au
Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of these lands, the Gadigal-Wangal people of the Eora Nation.

Document Set ID: 36622383
Version: 1, Version Date: 27/07/2022

From: Clr Marghanita Da Cruz <marghanita.da.cruz@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Monday, 18 July 2022 6:35 PM
To: Councillors <support.councillors@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Processes on DAs Fwd: Letter on the demerger

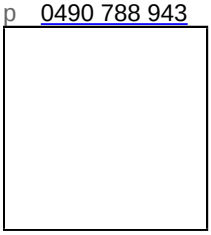
Please advise.

Marghanita

——

Clr Marghanita da Cruz
Gulgadya - Leichhardt Ward, Inner West Council
Phone: 0490-788-943
Blog: https://perambuler.ramin.com.au/search/label/Clr%20Marghanita%20da%20Cruz
Web: https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/about/the-council/mayor-and-councillors

Clr Marghanita Da Cruz
Leichhardt Ward - Gulgadya (Grass Tree)
p 0490 788 943 e marghanita.da.cruz@innerwest.nsw.gov.au



Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of these lands, the Gadigal-Wangal people of the Eora Nation.

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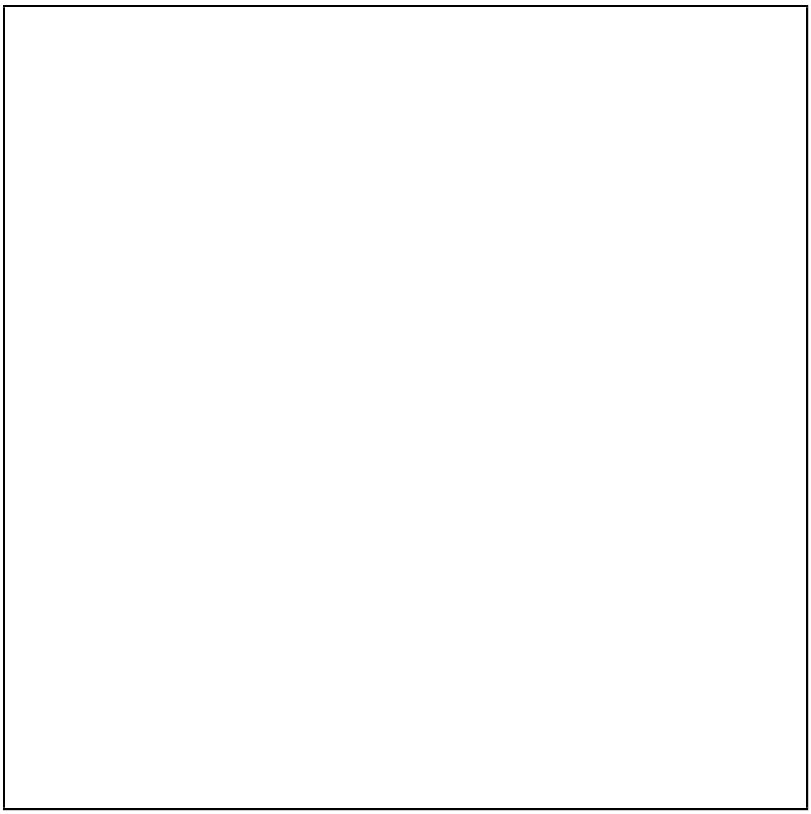
Version: 1, Version Date: 27/07/2022



From: [redacted]
Sent: Friday, July 15, 2022 6:12 pm
To: Clr Marghanita Da Cruz <marghanita.da.cruz@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Letter on the demerger

Clr Marghanita Da Cruz,

Dear Councillor

I'm writing with respect to the micromex survey on the council demerger question. It appears on the Inner West Council website and is currently being used in a telephone questionnaire.

Many residents, both online and in person, have expressed concern to me about the design of the survey instrument. I share their concerns.

Document Set ID: 36622383
Version: 1, Version Date: 27/07/2022

I also am and have been opposed to the amalgamation on the basis of subsidiarity principles of governance and an advocate of deamalgamation.

The cost of deamalgamation should be weighed against the principled reasons for deamalgamation, many of which cannot be identified by consultants focused on poorly udnerstood concepts such as administrative duplication and governmental efficiency -- concepts favoured by neoclassical economists.

I am surprised that the Labor contingent of Council appears to have a firm view of the matter given that the amalgamation case relies not on principles of good governance and lifting those who are in need but on a business case founded on neoclassical economic principles of efficient (small and austere) government. When the Chifley government introduced the benefits power after WWII, giving us a way to access what became Medicare, Centrelink, the NDIS, and so on, that Commonwealth government did not seek economics advice from an external consultancy.

My experience with Council as a resident has been very costly and disastrous. After being issued a stop works order for erecting a pergola in our 4x4m backyard in late November last year, we were required to submit a DA within one month, before the compliance officer went on christmas holidays. Arranging for a DA to be drafted and submitted within 28 days at the risk of being issued with a demolition order was extremely difficult, and ultimately could not be achived for less than $14,600.00.

Some 7 months later, Council has not given me a response to this DA. This has been an incredibly stressful experience, with my wife feeling acutely unsafe (we have no back fence to our property; the stop worls order requires that we do nothing. All we have is temporary fencing.)

When I asked Council about the delay, I was advised that it was Council's policy that they communcioate only with the applicant. In this case, the applicant was the drafting compnay that charged us the 14,000.00.

Now, I know stories such as this are easy to dismiss for various reasons, including COVID-19, that there has been a glut of DAs, that we were in the wrong for not seeking permission for the pergola, and so forth. Nevertheless, the inefficency of Council in this matter, as well as the

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impersonal nature of all communications I havd had with Council, has left me with a terrible impression of Council's operations.

I could not be more willing to engage with the community and to participate in all it has to offer. My wife and I are strongly involved with the community, including through the Marrickville Heritage Society, the Newtown Neighbourhood Centre, and in other ways. We helped clean up the fire on Albermarle St and have been assisting the new owner to find old images of the sito restore it to its original state, as well as helping him think about how it might be run as a new boarding house. I could go on.

However, I am ultimately strongly of the view that the principle subsidiarity -- namely, the principle that government should be run at the most local level, and that centralisation should be avoided where possible -- required Council to revisit demalgamtion sincerely. Once upon a time, even Newtown had its own Council.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Document Set ID: 36622383
Version: 1, Version Date: 27/07/2022

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie
Subject: Submission on De-amalgamation
Date: Saturday, 30 July 2022 8:32:50 PM

Quinn Ritchie,

Attn: Inner West Council

I wish to make a submission on the de-amalgamation of Inner West Council. I support de-amalgamation to the former council areas of Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield for the following reasons:
You already have definitive proof that a large majority of the people in the area wish to demerger in the 2021 electoral question results.
No other consultation is required and it is a waste of ratepayers money to seek further opinions.
In addition
The three former Councils had strong and effective advocates for their local communities.

[redacted]

Yes to the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council

[redacted]

Thu 28/07/2022 15:07

To: Quinn Ritchie <quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>;Inner West Council <council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>;yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com <yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com>

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

I am writing in regards to the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council.

It is time that we can go back to the old council ways of being individual and independent of all other councils from the Inner West.

Since the amalgamation of the Inner West Councils the service to the rate payers have somewhat suffered. Our streets are dirty, drains blocked and customer service lacking.

I most certainly am in favour of the de-amalgamate of the Inner West Council.

Thank you for your commitment to this matter.

Regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

There is less consistency between the 3 previous councils.
There are conflicting information from each.
Local knowledge from local councillors has been diminished.
Council is slower with returning phone-calls, sometimes one needs to call 2-3 times to get a response.
I don't think there has been advantages resulting from the merger.
The environmental and heritage aspects of the 3 previous councils are too different.

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

From: yes deamalgamate
To: Quinn Ritchie
Subject: Fwd: de-amalgamation
Date: Sunday, 31 July 2022 2:30:03 PM

Sent on behalf of a local resident.

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: [redacted]
Date: Sun, Jul 31, 2022 at 9:02 AM
Subject: de-amalgamation
To: <yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com>

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

My email is regarding De-Amalgamation of the Inner West Council .

The main reason for voting YES to De-Amalgamation is that the Inner West Council is not representative of the community.

A smaller council means there would be fewer councillors per resident.

Consequently better and more effective advocacy for important local issues such as filtering of the 4 unfiltered exhaust stacks in Rozelle.

Kind Regards

[redacted]

--
We acknowledge the Gadigal-Wangal people of the Eora Nation. Sovereignty was never ceded.

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

I agree with everything on the Submission sheet

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

Write your Submission now!

Some of the Reasons I say YES to De-Amalgamation of IWC:

I want easy access to council meetings in my local area.

I have a voice and I am listened to and valued with a smaller council.

I want strong local leadership from a council which is truly local.

As a local I want to feel connected to my local council.

I want my Councillors to be my neighbours and to truly understand and care about issues in my local area.

I want to see our heritage Leichhardt Council Chambers in use again for council meetings.

I am not happy with the Inner West Council. Since it was formed it has run deficit budgets. Leichhardt Council had a budget surplus for the 10 years previous to the amalgamation.

I want the better and faster responsiveness from council staff who know my local area well and genuinely care about it. I don't get this with the Inner West Council staff.

I want council staff and Councillors with excellent local knowledge.

The Inner West Council is not an effective advocate on important local issues. It is too big, staff are too stretched and most of the Councillors are not local. Leichhardt Council was strong and effective advocate for its local community.

I am better represented in a smaller council with fewer residents per Councillor and Councillors who all live locally.

I know services are not at the level they were at with Leichhardt Council. I want a return to the service levels we had with Leichhardt Council

Leichhardt Council gave me a sense of place. Leichhardt Council was established in 1871. Leichhardt Council gave the local area identity, history, and pride. The Inner West Council is just a large corporation.

Leichhardt Council was as close as it gets to being a genuine local democracy. Residents came to council meetings; spoke on issues and then bore witnesses as issues were debated. They participated in Committees, forums and public meetings. All this has been lost with the Inner West Council. It is a precious and important part of our community's well-being to live in a genuine local democracy.

I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com . Closing date 31 July 2022.

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

I want a strong local leadership that represents my local community

I want to feel valued in the local community with fewer reps to carry out community needs

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie
Cc: yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com
Subject: DEAMALGAMATION
Date: Thursday, 28 July 2022 4:33:50 PM

You don't often get email from [redacted] Learn why this is important

When Leichhardt Council was forced to amalgamate with a number of other councils, without any consultation with rate payers, I was extremely unhappy with this decision. Within a short period of time I noticed Balmain and Rozelle areas starting to look quite neglected, grass verges unkempt and services became quite limited. Overall our area started to look shabby and for the amount of rates we pay, we should at least have a tidy suburb. I believe our rates have been ill-used and some of the poorer suburbs have benefited at Balmain/Rozelle's expense. I am baffled how the new council is in so much debt. It was certainly not spent in our suburbs. I am a huge believer that we need to demerge. I am very much for this.

Regards

[redacted]

Submission on De-amalgamation

[redacted]

Thu 28/07/2022 14:46

To: Quinn Ritchie <quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>

You don't often get email from [redacted] Learn why this is important

Quinn Ritchie,

Attn: Inner West Council

I wish to make a submission on the de-amalgamation of Inner West Council. I support de-amalgamation to the former council areas of Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield for the following reasons:

1. I want easy access to council meetings in my local area.

2. I have a voice and I am listened to and valued with a smaller council.

3. I want strong local leadership from a council which is truly local.

4. As a local I want to feel connected to my local council.

5. I want my Councillors to be my neighbours and to truly understand and care about issues in my local area.

6. I want to see our heritage Council Chambers and community buildings in use again for council and resident initiated committee meetings.

7. I am not happy with the Inner West Council. Since it was formed it has run deficit budgets. The three former councils were financially sound and, for example, Leichhardt Council had a budget surplus for the 10 years previous to the amalgamation.

8. I want the better and faster responsiveness from council staff who know my local area well and genuinely care about it. This has been lost since the forced amalgamation.

9. I want council staff and Councillors with excellent local knowledge.

10. The Inner West Council is not an effective advocate on important local issues.

11. It is too big, staff are too stretched and most of the Councillors are not local.

12. The three former Councils had strong and effective advocates for their local communities.

13. I am better represented in a smaller council with fewer residents per Councillor and Councillors who all live locally.

14. I know services are not at the level they were with the previous councils. I want a return to the service levels we had then.

15. The Inner West Council functions like a large corporation: the unelected council officers have huge powers and are not subject to resident scrutiny.

16. It is a precious and important part of our community's well being to live in a genuine local democracy.

17. The former Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield Councils were as close as it gets to being genuine local democracies: residents spoke at council meetings and then bore witnesses as the issues were debated. They participated in Committees, forums and public meetings. All this has been lost with the Inner West Council.

18. The process undertaken to develop the de-amalgamation business case by IWC is fatally flawed. It failed to undertake the community consultation that was required as per NSW Treasury guidelines before the case to de-amalgamate was developed.

19. The community consultation during the exhibition period of the current business case has also been deplorable. It is no more than blatant push-polling by a market research firm.

[redacted]

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

I want the better more effective responsiveness from council staff who genuinly care about us the ratepayers a smaller council with fewer residents is what we want Leichardt Council was better and served the residents more effectivly I would like the old council to be looking after our intests

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

SUBMISSION BY [redacted] ON THE DE-AMALGAMATION OF THE INNER WEST COUNCIL DATED 31 JULY 2022

This is the second submission I have made on this matter.

I was one of the 62.5% of Inner West residents who voted overwhelmingly for de-amalgamation at the recent poll conducted with Council elections last December.

It is apparent that the Inner West Council doesn't listen to residents and only makes excuses. So why ask them to vote?

I have been living in the Leichhardt LGA for almost 46 years so I have lived through all the changes in Council.

I thought I was living in a local democracy, where the wishes of the residents whom Council is supposed to represent, are followed.

Now the Inner West Council is running at a deficit. Previously my Leichhardt Council had a surplus so what has been the benefit of amalgamation?

IWC keeps on telling us about the impossible cost of de-amalgamation but a provision exists for the State Government to cover this. So why are our elected representatives reluctant to act and keep making excuses!

I again support de-amalgamation for the following reasons:

1) **Easier access to Council meetings in my local area and easier access to my elected representatives.**
2) **The 3 former Councils were made up of strong and effective advocates for their local communities. They lived locally and so understood and cared about local issues. This is what I vote for!**
3) **Smaller councils mean residents are all better represented with fewer residents per Councillor.**
4) **Open Council was initiated years ago by Leichhardt Council and I participated in a Community Consultative Committee. Council consulted and listened and acted! IWC has made that almost impossible.**
5) **I want my old Leichhardt Council back so they can advocate for the filtering of the WestConnex 4 exhaust stacks in Rozelle, about 1km from where I live. IWC has not supported their filtering and as such should be held responsible for any future adverse health effects!**

De-amalgamation of Inner West Council

[redacted]

Thu 28/07/2022 13:28

To: Quinn Ritchie <quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>;council@innerwest.com.au <council@innerwest.com.au>
Cc: yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com <yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com>

You don't often get email from [redacted] Learn why this is important

I would like to make a submission for de-amalgamation of Inner West Council for the following reasons:

1. Council services have declined steadily since amalgamation
2. I want strong local leadership from a council which is actually local
3. I want councillors to be neighbours who understand the issues in my local community.
4. Support for Greens is strong in this community. Darcy Byrnes' cynical use of the Liberal party bloc when councils were first amalgamated was unforgivable.

Yours sincerely
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
[redacted]
Quinn Ritchie
Subject: Submission on De-amalgamation
Date: Sunday, 31 July 2022 10:16:53 PM

Quinn Ritchie,

Attn: Inner West Council

I wish to make a submission on the de-amalgamation of Inner West Council. I support de-amalgamation to the former council areas of Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield for the following reasons:

1. I want easy access to council meetings in my local area.

2. I have a voice and I am listened to and valued with a smaller council.

3. I want strong local leadership from a council which is truly local.

4. As a local I want to feel connected to my local council.

5. I want my Councillors to be my neighbours and to truly understand and care about issues in my local area.

6. I want to see our heritage Council Chambers and community buildings in use again for council and resident initiated committee meetings.

7. I am not happy with the Inner West Council. Since it was formed it has run deficit budgets. The three former councils were financially sound and, for example, Leichhardt Council had a budget surplus for the 10 years previous to the amalgamation.

8. I want the better and faster responsiveness from council staff who know my local area well and genuinely care about it. This has been lost since the forced amalgamation.

9. I want council staff and Councillors with excellent local knowledge.

10. The Inner West Council is not an effective advocate on important local issues.

11. It is too big, staff are too stretched and most of the Councillors are not local.

12. The three former Councils had strong and effective advocates for their local communities.

13. I am better represented in a smaller council with fewer residents per Councillor and Councillors who all live locally.

14. I know services are not at the level they were with the previous councils. I want a return to the service levels we had then.

15. The Inner West Council functions like a large corporation: the unelected council officers have huge powers and are not subject to resident scrutiny.

16. It is a precious and important part of our community's well being to live in a genuine local democracy.

17. The former Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield Councils were as close as it gets to being genuine local democracies: residents spoke at council meetings and then bore witnesses as the issues were debated. They participated in Committees, forums and public meetings. All this has been lost with the Inner West Council.

18. The process undertaken to develop the de-amalgamation business case by IWC is fatally flawed. It failed to undertake the community consultation that was required as per NSW Treasury guidelines before the case to de-amalgamate was developed.

19. The community consultation during the exhibition period of the current business case has also been deplorable. It is no more than blatant push-polling by a market research firm.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie
Subject: Submission on De-amalgamation
Date: Saturday, 30 July 2022 8:54:40 AM

Quinn Ritchie,

Attn: Inner West Council

I wish to make a submission on the de-amalgamation of Inner West Council. I support de-amalgamation to the former council areas of Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield for the following reasons:

1. I want easy access to council meetings in my local area.

2. I have a voice and I am listened to and valued with a smaller council.

3. I want strong local leadership from a council which is truly local.

4. As a local I want to feel connected to my local council.

5. I want my Councillors to be my neighbours and to truly understand and care about issues in my local area.

6. I want to see our heritage Council Chambers and community buildings in use again for council and resident initiated committee meetings.

7. I am not happy with the Inner West Council. Since it was formed it has run deficit budgets. The three former councils were financially sound and, for example, Leichhardt Council had a budget surplus for the 10 years previous to the amalgamation.

8. I want the better and faster responsiveness from council staff who know my local area well and genuinely care about it. This has been lost since the forced amalgamation.

9. I want council staff and Councillors with excellent local knowledge.

10. The Inner West Council is not an effective advocate on important local issues.

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19. The community consultation during the exhibition period of the current business case has also been deplorable. It is no more than blatant push-polling by a market research firm.

[redacted]

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

I Want strong local leadership from a council which is truly local

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

- Poor service levels, despite council claims
- unusable new council cleanup service, resulting in dumped waste.
- Council is not maintaining the streets, weeds, drains, footpaths in the leichhardt council area.
- Funds are being wasted on art projects rather than essential repairs.

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

I feel the council does not care about it's citizens. It is remote - when do we see them in Balmain - "Never". We need councillors who live near the people they represent.

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

- Rates before amalgamation
- Most residents agree ie 62.5% vote @ council elections

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie; Inner West Council
Cc: yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com
Subject: De-amalgamation should proceed!
Date: Monday, 1 August 2022 11:38:08 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

I find it hard to understand why Council is being so derelict in its duty with this process of deamalgamation. The residents voted overwhelming in favour of it and yet Council deliberately obfuscates and tries to block the process. The IWC has the temerity to produce consultants reports to demonstrate that it is not financially feasible – that runs completely counter to experience. Leichardt Council ran a budget surplus for the 10 years prior to amalgamation, but the IWC has run deficit budgets. And the costs of deamalgamation itself are borne by State Govt, so that's a red herring as well. I want Councillors who actually care about their constituents, and who do not end up in front of ICAC being convicted of corruption charges. Genuine democracy begins at the local level, with real local representation and real care for the people's wishes. IWC is demonstrably not that with its tenacious will to hang on to power. Council meetings are no longer participatory affairs – they are instead instances of abusive behaviour from Councillors towards residents who dare to question them. My experience of council services in both Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils prior to amalgamation was better than my experience of services post amalgamation – simple things like access to household clean-ups and responsiveness to development processes.

I want deamalgamation to proceed, just as the community voted for. The IWC has an electoral responsilbity to do so.

[redacted]

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is:

My address is:

My email/phone number is:

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

The reasons for de-merging (- to have financial efficiencies) have never eventuated. The reason to ~~be~~ become the three separate councils again better recognises the unique identity of each and strengthens the individual communities. We all need community now more than ever and having a Leichhardt Council and Councillors who know about Leichhardt is crucial - particularly in these unprecedented times.

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

30.07.2022

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

Leichhardt Council was a better approximation to a democracy
It had history and felt closer to representing the people of Balmain, Rozelle, Leichhardt etc.
It was a better advocate for local issues.

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie
Subject: I wish to have the Councils De-amalgated, Services are poor, Newtown is in a shocking state King St. and Enmore Rd. stink footpaths are in appalling state Newtown must go back into Marrickville Council regardless of the cost and be responsible for the ...
Date: Friday, 29 July 2022 12:12:46 PM

Quinn Ritchie,

Attn: Inner West Council

I wish to make a submission on the de-amalgamation of Inner West Council. I support de-amalgamation to the former council areas of Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield for the following reasons:

1. I want easy access to council meetings in my local area.

2. I have a voice and I am listened to and valued with a smaller council.

3. I want strong local leadership from a council which is truly local.

4. As a local I want to feel connected to my local council.

5. I want my Councillors to be my neighbours and to truly understand and care about issues in my local area.

6. I want to see our heritage Council Chambers and community buildings in use again for council and resident initiated committee meetings.

7. I am not happy with the Inner West Council. Since it was formed it has run deficit budgets. The three former councils were financially sound and, for example, Leichhardt Council had a budget surplus for the 10 years previous to the amalgamation.

8. I want the better and faster responsiveness from council staff who know my local area well and genuinely care about it. This has been lost since the forced amalgamation.

9. I want council staff and Councillors with excellent local knowledge.

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11. It is too big, staff are too stretched and most of the Councillors are not local.

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17. The former Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield Councils were as close as it gets to being genuine local democracies: residents spoke at council meetings and then bore witnesses as the issues were debated. They participated in Committees, forums and public meetings. All this has been lost with the Inner West Council.

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19. The community consultation during the exhibition period of the current business case has also been deplorable. It is no more than blatant push-polling by a market research firm.

[redacted]

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

- Higher level of service + service staff
- Prevention of asset selling
- Honour the referendum.

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

30 July 2022

Submission to Inner West Council de-merger Survey

Inner West Bicycle Coalition (IWBC) is comprised of Ashfield Bicycle Group, Bike Leichhardt and Bike Marrickville. These are bicycle user groups that share the common aims of promoting bicycle use for personal mobility, improving our environment, encouraging better health and better social equity. We are strong advocates for Active Transport seeking improved conditions for walking, cycling and personal mobility.

IWBC was formed in 2016 to provide a united cycling voice to the new Inner West Council and has contributed to progress being made by IWC in its planning for the future Active Transport needs of the enlarged municipality. We provide transport planning advice from a user perspective and monitor road conditions that need improvements for safety and convenience of the cycling community.

From our perspective a fundamental gain from having the three former councils merged is that bicycle route planning is now continuous across the former boundaries. The joining of bicycle routes across borders between Leichhardt and Marrickville Bike Plans is no longer a problem. Regrettably, Ashfield Council did not have a bike plan, but due to amalgamation a comprehensive Cycling Strategy and Action Plan is currently being prepared to address the present and future cycling needs of the entire Inner West municipality. The popular Greenway project has progressed under the merger, eliminating the former council boundaries and providing a unified voice in Council dealing with many state government authorities.

Historically, the former councils' formations were tailored to local shopping, public transport, local physical/manual work, newspapers and an inward-looking focus. Today our life is global, electronic, service-based, car-based and subject to climate change. **These 'improvements' have also caused massive problems and demand responses at scale.**

Whilst the de-merger process is narrowly focusing on the relative costs, we consider that a much broader view must be taken of this council's place in the Eastern Harbour Sydney, its interaction with State Government and its ability to combat climate change and tailor its services to changing community needs. To the east we can see how a larger council can be run more professionally to enable it to confidently work with State Government. The quality cycle facilities being built in the City of Sydney are outstanding and well known. The contrast with the fragmented Inner West cycle facilities is resounding. The controversial WestConnex experience has shown that it is important to be unified and have enough scale to challenge large infrastructure projects to extract the best possible outcomes for Active Transport (walking, cycling and mobility scooters) in our Inner West community.

Transport for NSW has changed its focus in recent years and is putting more resources towards Active Transport. If the Inner West is not unified, these gains, through increased Active Transport grants to a list of developed cycling projects, could be lost.

It is clear that some of the former LGA's were not served evenly with comparable cycling facilities and attendant commitment to improving these facilities. The former Marrickville Council had a quality bike plan, a list of projects ready for funding and completion and an open working relationship with the bicycle user groups to fix ongoing cycling safety and access issues. Leichhardt also had a quality bike plan but limited commitment to actually producing the projects proposed. Ashfield had no bike plan and no formal commitment to improving cycling conditions.

Having one larger council has the benefit of equitably providing for all in the Inner West community by having a larger resource base backed up by a core of professional staff.

It is for these reasons that we would prefer the Inner West Council to remain merged **and work hard to integrate its operations**, **build up its resources** and address the challenges confronting the Inner West to take its rightful place in the Eastern Harbour City.

[redacted]

I made a submission to IWC Have Your Say website in July 2022 but will briefly reiterate here.

1. Difficulty in attending Council meetings in Ashfield in peak hour traffic.
2. The agenda is so large that most times the issue you are concerned about is postponed.
3. Lack of representation with the current number of councillors servicing a community larger than the electorate of Grayndler.
4. Lack of continuity within council officers and workers. In my experience previously under LMC we had good communication with council officers as well as the maintenance crews who looked after our parks and maintained our streets, many of whom lived within the area.
5. Residents' involvement in various committees is no longer encouraged. LMC had a number of committees encouraging input from residents - environment, heritage and planning to name a few.
6. Overall financial management of LMC was excellent. LMC was in an excellent financial position when amalgamated. This was dissipated to the other councils in particular Ashfield .

To conclude the amalgamation has been a disaster for the residents of Leichhardt with the loss of experienced council officers including the financial staff many who will not return but we need to start again with a positive commitment to regaining our community. Unfortunately many of the younger people in our area never had my experience of an inclusive community run local government area in which I have lived since 1967.

regards

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie; Inner West Council
Subject: Submission regarding de-amalgamation
Date: Friday, 29 July 2022 4:23:40 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

Hi,
On the subject of de-amalgamation this is what we voted for, the vote was in favor of it and therefore this is what we must have.

The reasons I voted for de-amalgamation include the desire to have a smaller, more representative body. A smaller council will allow us greater access to attend and contribute to Council meetings and this gives us the residents, great scrutiny over the council.

With greater scrutiny comes the ability to prevent capture of the approvals process by property developers and to block the privatisation of public assets and enclosure of public lands by corporations.

All the bad things mentioned above are happening now under the current mega Inner West Council, a body that is only notionally democratic.

Please de-amalgamate

Regards
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie; Inner West Council
Subject: De amalgamation
Date: Saturday, 30 July 2022 7:24:38 PM

Dear Sir,

Dear Sir,

Please note my views:
De amalgamation was overwhelmingly favoured by the residents of the Inner West with 62.5% supporting this at the recent poll conducted with the Council elections in December and approximately 68 % on the Balmain peninsula.

It is a precious and important part of our community's well being to live in a genuine local democracy so we must respect the wishes of the majority and disband the IWC.

I am extremely unhappy with the Inner West Council (IWC) as it as shown itself to be anti-resident. Since it was formed it has run deficit budgets. The three former councils were financially sound. For example, Leichhardt Council had a budget surplus for the 10 years previous to the amalgamation and is now in debt, thanks to the IWC, to the tune of some $20,000,000!

The process undertaken to develop the de-amalgamation business case by IWC is fatally flawed. It failed to undertake the community consultation that was required as per NSW Treasury guidelines before the case to de-amalgamate was developed.

Regards
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie
Subject: Submission on De-amalgamation from former staff member
Date: Friday, 29 July 2022 11:39:56 PM

Quinn Ritchie,

Hiya former colleagues,

I wish to offer my support to deamalgamate the IWC.

As a former staff member of the IWC and Leichhardt council I witnessed the effects of the amalgamation directly on the services delivered by the new council. While the merger may have looked good on paper economically the reality is it created a gulf in the service delivery abilities of the council. Services were slashed when the councils merged and it will take decades to get them back. (I won't include specific slashes from my area in this submission - I am happy to discuss them in person)

The IWC spans across 8km. And it must deliver a uniform service to all those constituents equally despite one side living with harbour views and the others looking at the dirtiest river in Sydney.

The equivalent would be those in the CBD sharing a governing body with those in beachside Manly (8km away). It would be a preposterous suggestion to make that two groups so distantly spaced could be serviced equitably and responsibly and yet this is the reality IWC residents face.

The frank matter is that two people from either side of the IWC will likely never meet. They share little in common and they shouldnt share an inadequately staffed local government.

[redacted]

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

Better street parking & cleaning

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

Obvious

Council worked for me before amalgamation. Now it's too big and not responsive to local needs

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

- I am not happy with the Inner West Council Since it has been formed it has had a defecit budget Leichhardt Council had a buget surplus for the 10 yrs prio to amalgamation
- I want better + faster responsiveness from Council staff who know my local area well + genuenly care about it I dont get this c the Inner West Council Staff.

Lets re-instate LEICHHARDT COUNCIL

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie; Inner West Council
Subject: De-amalgamate
Date: Sunday, 31 July 2022 3:02:32 PM
Importance: High

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

Good afternoon,

To whom it may concern, I wish to express my desire for the de amalgamation to be reconsidered for the following reasons:-

1. I want easy access to council meetings in my local area.

2. I have a voice and I am listened to and valued with a smaller council.

3. I want strong local leadership from a council which is truly local.

4. As a local I want to feel connected to my local council.

5. I want my Councillors to be my neighbours and to truly understand and care about issues in my local area.

6. I want to see our heritage Council Chambers and community buildings in use again for council and resident initiated committee meetings.

7. I am not happy with the Inner West Council. Since it was formed it has run deficit budgets. The three former councils were financially sound and, for example, Leichhardt Council had a budget surplus for the 10 years previous to the amalgamation.

8. I want the better and faster responsiveness from council staff who know my local area well and genuinely care about it. This has been lost since the forced amalgamation.

9. I want council staff and Councillors with excellent local knowledge.

10. The Inner West Council is not an effective advocate on important local issues.

11. It is too big, staff are too stretched and most of the Councillors are not local.

12. The three former Councils had strong and effective advocates for their local communities.

13. I am better represented in a smaller council with fewer residents per Councillor and Councillors who all live locally.

14. I know services are not at the level they were with the previous councils. I want a return to the service levels we had then.

15. The Inner West Council functions like a large corporation: the unelected council officers have huge powers are not under subject to resident scrutiny.

16. It is a precious and important part of our community's well being to live in a genuine local democracy.

17. The former Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield Councils were as close as it gets to being genuine local democracies: residents spoke at council meetings and then bore witnesses as the issues were debated. They participated in Committees, forums and public meetings. All this has been lost with the Inner West Council.

18. The process undertaken to develop the de-amalgamation business case by IWC is fatally flawed. It failed to undertake the community consultation that was required as per NSW Treasury guidelines before the case to de-amalgamate was developed.

19. The community consultation during the exhibition period of the current business case has also been deplorable. It is no more than blatant push-polling by a market research firm

I look forward to confirmation of receipt of this email.

Regards,

[redacted]

31st July 2022

Dear Inner West councillors,

First, I take my hat off to all councillors who commit to attending long and late night meetings (fronting up to work next day), to attending official and local ward events, reading what they can of the massive business papers, on top of day jobs family and social lives and special interests, always in the best interests of the community. I'm piling on another long message. [redacted]

WHY I VOTED FOR Deamalgamation
Keep it local, change boundaries to fit natural landscapes
My position on council boundaries in 2016 was that they should be based on river catchments as far as practicable. I believe boundary changes should be for realigning that way while staying local. I wrote to Linda Burney, my state member at the time, about it and told Cr Stott after Ashfield's final meeting but didn't argue for it at public meetings because I thought it wasn't an option. It was relevant, my head wasn't screwed on. In its submission to the NSW Electoral Commissions' redrawing of state electorate boundaries I was pleased the National Party based maps on river catchments. My neighbourhood is in the Cooks River Valley. Seven councils share the Cooks Valley.

It's politically incorrect to talk about climate change and the many other catastrophes coming at us at once, but so what? Politics is incorrect.* Wise heads talk of learning about the Aboriginal perspective of the natural world. Western attitudes have always ranged from being detached from nature to being at war with it and mainstream economists dismiss it as an externality, ie, doesn't spin money profits. All three tiers of government electorate maps based on topography would make so much sense and give the people better awareness of our natural environment. We're more and more realising we desperately need a change in perspective.

*https://www.sydney.edu.au/engage/events-sponsorships/sydney-ideas/2022/emma-johnston-state-of-the-environment.html From 10:10 to 12:00 ... *climate change layered on top of existing problems*: Overpopulation, extinctions, water scarcity, ground water salination, soil infertility, pollution, unrepayable debts, geopolitical crises, inaccessiblility of minerals to power renewable energy (https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Simon-Michaux-2 and his YouTube chats, backed up by local news: https://cosmosmagazine.com/technology/energy/copper-needed-for-net-zero-emissions)

Backflip without community assent
At a small Town Hall meeting a couple of days before Ashfield councillors' capitulation, there was no indication by Labor of a backflip. Big surprise when the council met. Thinking back, Labor councillors were probably careful to not come out one way or the other, but didn't make it clear. When an acquaintance of Cr Drury and mine, a Labor member, spoke for Ashfield Council continuing, it appeared to me at Cr Drury's request. I spoke for Ashfield remaining as well. I only know the Ashfield story so far as it was like now, an inadequate public discussion, all about financials in the papers and uncertainty about that, nothing on non-financials except at the Town Hall. Strathfield, Burwood, Canada Bay, Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai, Hunters Hill, Ryde, Lane Cove, North Sydney, Mosman, Willoughby, Woollahra, Randwick and Waverley didn't merge, Why did we?

The day I attended the Upper House inquiry into amalgamations, Hornsby Mayor spoke repeatedly of the successful turn-around in his council's financial position through his efficiency measures. He meant this as a strong recommendation for his ability to make an amalgamation with Ku-ring-gai successful. It was a far stronger recommendation for Ku-ring-gai Council to remain separate and improve where necessary.

Just get back to how we should have remained
It's extraordinary how politicians make the worst decisions in the face of better knowledgeand walk away from the bad outcomes without being brought to account, no apologies even. I wanted my vote for deamalgamation last year to tidy up the mess and view the whole stuff-up as a bad joke.

The pretext was that councillors would have to give way to an administrator and that happened anyway. I read more recently that Cr Byrne said the big infrastructure debts (swimming pools) that we're stuck with were incurred by administrators. Well it didn't have to be but we have to live with the debt, merged or de-merged. Let's get back to how we should have remained.

Carnival of Cultures, identity and shared belonging, gone.
Those first three reasons reflect considerations in 2016. This fourth reason comes here because it was in 2017 that I saw what amalgamation had done to Ashfield's Carnival of Cultures. Totally killed it, which spells out more clearly than any other consideration what a disaster amalgamation has proven to be.

There wasn't the continuous stream of people between the rows of stalls at Ashfield Park, there wasn't anything like the number of stalls. No citizenship ceremony as far as I know, which was always the highlight. All I remember of the entertainment was it didn't keep my attention and I was disappointed. The set up for the stage and audience was different to how it used to be and the audience didn't have the food stalls right behind them for their convenience. I'm pretty sure there weren't any food stalls for the audience, an odd few elsewhere. I remember a local family of drummers at their own stall that drew a bigger and more engaged crowd. They were great entertainment. No Council's plant give-away, no library book sale, instead for the first time a Meet The Mayor tent, an empty tent but for Cr Byrne standing ready to talk. It's standard for council newsletters to give mayors special status, featuring multiple photos of them, however on that day a Leichhardt councillor as the single voice for Council to Ashfield was very symbolic of our lost identity and lack of shared belonging.

No more Carnival of Cultures. No continuity in Council staff who knew how to put it together, and a centralised events unit that had no concept of the importance of local? Non-financial values haven't been taken seriously. Events elsewhere aren't local.

Lost services and unwanted services
Disconnection between Council staff and residents is another reason for a deamalgamate vote. I don't know staff feelings but familiar faces at front desks is better, from my point of view, than unfamiliar staff each time. Long waits for phone responses have been bad, better more recently, but not as responsive as Ashfield Council had been.

What service one of the original councils received, everyone now receives, eg, contractors cutting verges. It's a bad service. Too infrequent, particularly between November and February (one year March) when grass growth is greatest. Worse still, the long gaps between visits proliferate weeds, not just on the verges but wherever the wind and rain events take the seeds. Weeds in seed attract Indian Mynas. Slashers do a rough job of Kikuyu Grass. Council will paint small “NO MOW” signs at verges that have plantings, if asked, but the signs fade fast and even when fresh, they're not seen by contractors rushing through and looking at verges, not footpaths. Whipper snippers followed by five blowers at once: when we had local newspapers in the Ashfield area, angry letters about noisy motor bikes were common, but at least bikes come and go pretty quick.

Free green bins for the asking. I look forward to a return of Ashfield Council with: green bins for an annual rent; contract mowers only for pensioners and long side verges; the vacuum truck that a worker walked alongside with the sucker tube quietly taking up leaves and litter from the gutter, though also too infrequently.

WHY I WANT ASHFIELD COUNCIL, PREVIOUS SERVICES OR FEWER.
No time for Council debate and democratic representation
Having watched sections of the May and June Council meetings and gone through the Business Case I'm seeing democracy trivialised. There is no debate, a majority of one enables decisions to be pushed through without being justified. The council is too big for all the matters to be dealt with in monthly meetings. We need the smaller councils with better representation.

NOT MY FAULT! NOT MY JOB! "Cr Mark Drury … said that the Inner West Council staff chose the Morrison Low to do the business case, not Councillors." Sydney City online local: https://cityhubsydney.com.au/2022/06/inner-west-de-amalgamation-continues-on-rocky-path/ Labor chose to amalgamate for the continuity of democratic representation, so give us democratic representation by commissioning a second opinion, from a world expert on the subject of local government and amalgamation, Prof Joseph Drew. Repeated requests in May and June Council meetings for the terms of reference for the Business Case were not responded to when the General Manager was present. He could have said straight out that there were no terms of reference. Morrison & Low resorted to using the NSW Government Business Case Guidelines, as revealed in the 22nd July online discussion that he chaired.

Business is Business! Non-financials, it's a joke
Of course the Business Case makes only a token reference to non-financial factors, business is business! No place for sentiment down at the financial bottom line.
We need more than a business case, community values and belonging, local area belonging cases. The state government is neoliberal, non-financials are "externalities", ie, irrelevant. Morrison Low holds that view? They make no effort to discuss non-financials. The Business Case says on page 2: "THE KEY BENEFITS IDENTIFIED ABOVE ARE NOT QUANTIFIABLE AND CANNOT BE INCLUDED IN A CALCULATION OF NET BENEFIT OR COST OF DE-AMALGAMATION." The General Manager and staff who chose Morrison Low? Labor councillors?

The only reference to non-financials by Labor that I'm aware of is in Cr Scott's motion that includes C. RECOMMENDED THAT THE COMMUNICATION TO THE COMMUNITY IN RELATION TO THE DE-AMALGAMATION PROCESS CLEARLY IDENTIFIES THE KNOWN NON-FINANCIAL RISK AND BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY ". The flyer which hasn't reached my letterbox, I've downloaded it, lists the four benefits with the qualification "SUCH AS", a two word pretension that doesn't suggest anything like a serious investigation into clearly identifiable benefits. There is clear identification in just two out of four listed benefits from deamalgamation. The other two: SOME PERCEIVED SERVICE LEVEL IMPROVEMENTS + BETTER ALIGNMENT OF COUNCIL PRIORITIES TO COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST are not clear identifications.

Priority given to risk over benefit in the flyer, a sad echo of the Coalition's great never fail weapon, Fear & Loathing. Labor has the power and feels no compunction to explain or consult. I've referred to the amalgamation as a bad joke but is it seen by Labor as The Joke? Differentiate from the Liberals by appearing to lead the campaign against amalgamation; "backflip" at the last minute and amalgamate; let Liberals cop the blame and get voted out (with the deamalgamate option in voters' minds last year); keep Labor image in a better light but do everything to avoid a full airing of issues; no local

newspapers to flesh out issues and hold people to account (How lucky can they be?); give special regard to staff burnout and less to people's non-financial wishes; let staff organise the Business Case on their own terms or rather, no terms; rush through the public discussion process (ticking boxes); all looking good for no deamalgamation.

Cr Stamolis made correct observations that the Business Case is not a councillors' submission but a staff submission and that it isn't the full case. Crs Atkins and Shetty stressed there's no urgency, there's time to fully explore the non-financials through a revised business case. All dismissed without debate by the majority of one. Cr Atkins referred to the NSW Guidelines with regard to editing by stakeholders. It's telling that in fact the NSW Guidelines became the default terms of reference, but weren't fully applied, and they're skewed anyway by virtue of NSW Government neoliberal focus only on financials.

It's time to act, to participate, to embrace non-financials

In 2016 we amalgamated and the previous State of the Environment Report was published. In 2022 we're looking into deamalgamation and the latest State of the Environment Report cannot be ignored as the previous reports were. People still living in tents or caravans from the 2019 fires; a woman whose family home was lost to the Lismore floods held up Sydney traffic to get the message across to us, **to get real**.

Can't include non-financials in the calculations? Referring back to my 3rd June letter to you, “working class people to become middle class”. The other way round in fact, increasingly it will be middle class people adopting the good old working class make do lifestyle. It's a good simple life! Don't be afraid! Don't be scared! More time for each other for practical purposes, more community activity. Community co-ops. Some people in Qld are already experimenting in radical ways: https://www.ecovillages.au/ They see possibilities within cities.

In all collective activities it's minorities who participate, but the combined collective activities involve a significant percentage of the community. I'm suggesting the possibility of residents volunteering to assist with the deamalgamation. Routine straightforward tasks, including residents simply mowing their own verges. Keeping our frontages clear of rubbish and organics such as leaves (great for the garden) would save money and be very good for the health of rivers ocean and wildlife.

Disruption is and will continue to be normality

Values people might have in mind when looking to Aboriginal ways are described in the YouTube below at 52:09-55:53. The non-financial benefits must be given more public discussion time. 13th September is too soon for a final decision. There's no rush unless there are inconvenient truths to evade. We've had lots of that and I really do think we're over it and looking for better ways https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRg5nBQVdio The following highlights cover nearly half the session. 24:10-34:50 ; 38:00-50.42 ; 51:10-57:52 ; 1:11-1:12:50 ; 1:20:15-1:22:00 ; 1:24:15-1:28:10 ; 1:31:40-1:34:34 ; 1:35:30-1:39:37 ; 1:42:50-1:52:06.

This is politically incorrect stuff and worth acknowledging because of a significant resistance. The numerous Earths we're consuming is a number that must be factored into calculations and the best time and place for acting on them is now, individually and in the local community. There's always been volunteering and it must become the community way, even though many aren't able to get involved. Individuals make a big difference, eg, installing rooftop solar made a big difference to the nation's clean energy usage in spite of the federal government's unhelpfulness.

We switched from keynesian economics back to neoclassical economics at the worst time, in the early days of climate change reports, publication of Limits to Growth, and Jack Mundey and the BLF Green Bans' challenge to us, to value our green spaces. Individually and as a society we procrastinate till we really have to change our attitudes. We say "necessity is the mother of invention" for the very reason. Old habits die hard, certainly in politics. Neoclassical economics took Western economies into catastrophes of the early twentieth century (WWI, flu pandemic, overreaction to fear of communism, Gt Depression) till the depression took the legs out from under the plutocrats, and keynesian economics was adopted. It'll be better that the people end the plutocrats' big dollar influence on our political parties and politics overall without the catastrophes.

To counter big dollar influence from corporations, there has to be community participation for communication to bypass mainstream media. It's in local community participation that I see deamalgamation very compelling and doable. Less of the cynical notions that councils don't care and councils should be doing 101 things that they can't do without impossibly high rates or federal funding. Participation leads to feeling part of community and having a personal stake in seeing good outcomes, more so in our neighbourhoods and near neighbourhoods and in the smaller councils.

On councils' part, they have to be imaginative in how they communicate with the people now we don't have local papers. I didn't receive in my letterbox the Council's flyer about the Business Case and online information session, I downloaded it. Got news of those and the survey from Residents for Deamalgamation. I used Council's home page search panel for the 6pm online information session about deamalgamation (variations of that) and got nowhere. Not on council meeting webcasts page and didn't think of Have Your Say because it was Council having its say. The after hours phone number had no option to hear a recorded message about events that night, otherwise I'd have found the page. I phoned the library and was told it had been held during that afternoon. I phoned next day and waited for a call back that said a recording would be online from Monday. Councils have to know how to best communicate with every residential address, online, via letterbox or some other way. Having done letterboxing, many addresses don't have letterboxes (PO boxes instead) many more simply leave letterbox contents for snail food. The three councils will have to be fully on board with community participation. Council-residents strategic committees?

For a charity a decade ago I listed welfare charities according to type for all states and territories except NSW and had to group them under council areas because councils are central to these non-financial services. I have no idea if there are differences in service delivery between the three councils and the amalgamated council, I'm mentioning it in case it's worth looking into. People receiving assistance might not be participating in this.

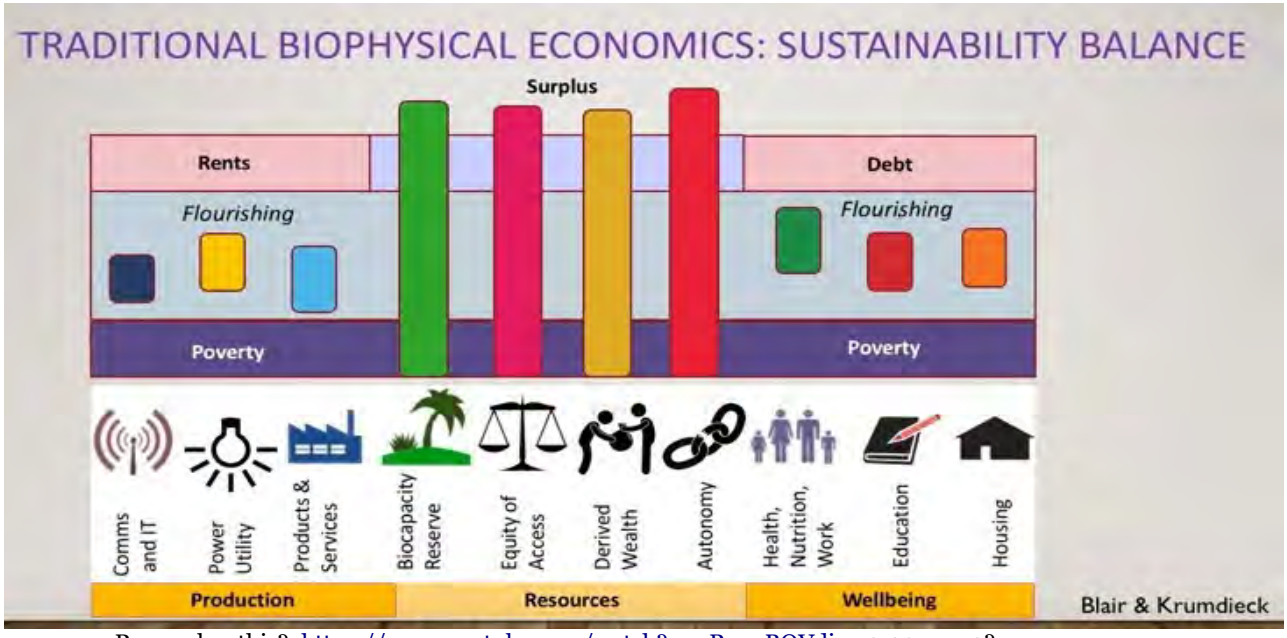
We've been warned of disruption in our climates for five decades, we've allowed the impacts to worsen over that time because it's nature's way to take the easy path, just as rivers meander, and Simon Michaux's view is we've till round 2030 to act and not continue to hope for the best and complain when things go belly-up. He says "We've got psychopaths in charge of things" world wide and nationally who could "do something flamboyantly stupid just to stay in power". It comes down to individual attitudes and actions and community attitudes and action. A lot of non-financial stuff.
https://www.thegreatsimplification.com/episode/19-simon-michaux 1:14:38-1:17:14 ; 1:17:40-1:18:40

Non-financials our economy's mainstay
The Non-finance sector will again prove why it's the mainstay of our economy when the finance system again catastrophically collapses. Hugh Stretton ("Hugh Stretton:selected

writings” Ch 11, 'Democracy and Home Ownership') wrote that capitalists and socialists want to be in control which can only be achieved through the money economy. It means they value only government activity and private enterprise and ignore the third and more productive sector, the residential sector, a non-financial sector. Now is a perfect time to promote the non-financial values in our homes and local communities, precipitated by the deamalgamation controversy. We ought to anticipate the two disruptions coinciding or close to it, and our responses to them will be complementary. Simon Michaux, “we have a narrow window when action is possible”, very much the way Labor plans it in regard to a decision whether or not to reestablish our three original councils.

But wait, there's more!

There's the fourth and by far the most productive sector, non-financial and hinted at in the very first sentence against amalgamation on page 1, the natural environment. When the current money based economy collapses this next time we won't have a people based economy, it'll be nature based.



Remember this? https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pRg5nBQVdio 52:09-55:53?

koala_John-Giustina_Getty

2nd Aug 2022

Dear Councillors,

There's always something to add and this time, something worth sending off.

Backflip without community assent
This had had occurred to me but councils in Premier Baird's electorate area amalgamated. However my impression is the Northern Beaches (Manly Warringah and Pittwater) have a much stronger identity among themselves, seeing themselves as distince from the rest of Sydney. Mosman didn't see itself as part of them. The rest of the Liberal heartland defied the Liberal NSW Government. What did councillors of those areas know that our councillors of 2016 didn't? How impactful of amalgamations on Mr Baird's resignation?

Disruption is and will continue to be normality
Also, my approach isn't considered particularly smart but I've heard that 70% of the population want something done about climate change, which means they want straight honest talk without the fear and loathing, yet fear and loathing hit people's panic buttons regardless of better instincts.

Finally *it's nature's way to take the easy path, just as rivers meander.* Rivers sometimes turn back on themselves, similar to the effect of denialism over the years so far, but there is an end point to all rivers. Like fairy tales denialism exercises our imaginations. Unlike classic fairy tales, denialism's happy forever afters are in hopes full lives and peaceful deaths before catastrophe. Unlike denialism, the purpose of fairy tales is to teach important life lessons.

Meandering River | Northern Alberta | hardwiredindustries | Flickrflickr.com

Yours sincerely, [redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie
Cc: Inner West Council; yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com
Subject: Demerge Inner West Council...please
Date: Sunday, 31 July 2022 9:01:29 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [redacted]
Learn why this is important

To: Quinn Ritchie

Thank you for allowing me to submit the following:

The majority of residents voted 62% for de-amalgamation in Dec 2021 and I strongly support demerger of IWC. I have the following problems with the current forced amalgamated and larger IWC:

Each Councillor currenty represents about 14,000 residents whereas in a de-amalgamated council it would be reduced to about 4,000 to 8,000 residents according to what area. As more apartment blocks are built this representation will only increase. Knowing that IWC Councillors have to represent so many residents I would never contact a Councillor for assistance unless I had a very urgent matter….they are clearly too busy.

Since the formation of the IWC there has been instability with staff having to adjust to 3 different general managers. If a general manager doesn't get on with a Mayor in such a large Council it becomes a big problem; in smaller Councils, however, everything is at a more manageable level. During this period Council services have declined and most people I talk with agree.

The majority of residents voted for local government to be local. I used to walk up to Marrickville Council meetings but since amalgamation I have only attended a few IWC meetings in Ashfield as I have to drive there.

In 2006-2007 Marrickville Councillors helped me with a community matter and we both walked to a mutual meeting place between Marrickville and Petersham. This is what I call local - I want a local Council back. I now drive to Leichhardt Council to pay rates and get

annual parking permit, etc. I used to walk up to Marrickville Council to do this and check out displayed development proposals. I rarely go through the many proposals online unless I have heard of a development nearby.

IWC commissioned the Morrison Low report about de-amalgamation but the community needs an independent report done by a government expert with community consultation. Council's decision to meet only monthly increases the power of the Mayor and ALP Councillors while at the same time reduces residents power and delays action on community matters and makes for long meetings. Community Forums and Local Democracy Groups are useful but it is in Council meetings where decisions are made. The IWC Mayor and ALP Councillors have too much power. In smaller Councils, like the old Marrickville Council, the Mayor may have had power but nothing like the power wielded by the IWC Mayor on the question of the demerger.

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie
Subject: Yes to de-amalgamation
Date: Friday, 29 July 2022 11:42:00 AM

> You don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

I wish you to record my strong wish that Council should proceed as quickly as possible with de-amalgamation as requested by ratepayers.
I consider the quality of services has deteriorated and also the amalgamation has resulted in the end of our local democracy such as precinct groups and the local newssheet which were so successful in the Leichhardt municipality.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie; Inner West Council
Cc: yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com
Subject: Yes to deamalgamate Innerwest council
Date: Friday, 29 July 2022 5:09:08 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

Dear Mr Ritchie
I am very much in favour of deamalgamation.
Services have deteriorated since amalgamation and residents would be better represented at a local level if council was returned to its structure before deamalgamation
Currently Innerwest council is Ashfield centric and communities further away do not receive the consideration they had previously.

Kind regards

[redacted]

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following: please call.
Not Happy with the services

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie; Inner West Council
Subject: Submission in relation to documents circulated by IWC under the title "Community flyer and Draft De-amalgamation Business Case
Date: Saturday, 30 July 2022 8:18:01 PM
Importance: High

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [redacted]
Learn why this is important

1) I have been resident and a home owner in either the Leichhardt, Marrickville and most recently the Inner West Council local government areas for the last thirty eight (38) years continuously, and I have paid rates to all three of those councils during that time span.

2) I wish the IWC to be acutely aware of my views in relation to the documents referred to in the subject heading above, and that I am strongly in favour of de-amalgamation.

3) In the flyer, the **possible** benefits of de-amalgamation are set out in a glib and unconvincing manner. In contrast, what are said to be the **significant costs** and **potential risks** of de-amalgamation are set out very enthusiastically, but without any sources or references for the claims made about the costly and risky nature of de-amalgamation. I began to smell a rat.

4) Immediately after that, Ernst & Young are quoted as being the source of "*11 risks posed by the de-amalgamation*" including some that sound quite frightening. My question is: how did Ernst & Young become involved in this matter? I cannot detect E & Y being referred to anywhere else in the documents circulated by IWC, and I am not aware of IWC ever informing ratepayers of an intention to spend what I would presume must be very significant amounts of ratepayers money on consulting the like of E & Y. While such questions have not (apparently) ever been raised let alone answered, IWC go on to tell us that if de-amalgamation proceeds the next step "*is to develop a plan to minimise or mitigate against the impact of these risks on the community*". The smell of dead rat became more pronounced for me.

5) IWC then tells us - the residents and ratepayers - that it engaged Morrison Low to prepare a business case relating to service delivery under a "*de-amalgamated model*". The burning question for me is: WHY WAS THE JOB OF PREPARING A BUSINESS CASE FOR DE-AMALGAMATION NOT PUT OUT FOR TENDER? It is screamingly obvious this should have been done and the fact that it was not done calls into question any conclusions that might or might not have been reached by Morrison Low.

6) In relation to conclusions that apparently were reached by Morrison Low, my question is: why was there no modelling of shared services across all three Councils? A facile statement to the effect that the literature indicated there was little demonstrated benefit for NSW local government in such an approach is, in my opinion, no substitute for proper research into the question that is actually under discussion at this particular time, in the particular circumstances that obtain at this time (e.g. the Covid 19 pandemic).

7) Overall, I regret to say I am forced to the conclusion that what purports to be an attempt by IWC to seek community opinion in relation to the desirability of whether or not Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville should revert to being separate local government areas or should remain as is under the monolithic IWC, is no such thing, and is in fact a sham designed to mislead the community into preserving the status quo.

8) For anyone who doubts my conclusion, I suggest you carefully re-read the "Community flyer" and pages 4 and 5 of the "survey". Speaking as a lawyer and a trained social scientist, it is my opinion these documents reek of dishonesty, and of bias in favour of the view there should be no de-amalgamation and that the IWC should continue as is.

9) If the IWC is in possession of, or knows of, any probative evidence which might suggest it is **not** intent on self preservation, I would be very interested to learn of it and of its whereabouts.

10) In relation to how I think local government matters should be conducted and what I personally hope to gain from de-amalgamation, I believe my views are - broadly speaking - shared by at least 62.5% of eligible voters who live in what is now the Inner West Council local government area. My views about what I and my fellow voters should be entitled to as a matter of course are as follows.

11) I want easy access to council meetings that are held in my local area and at which I am permitted to speak in accordance with normal orderly and democratic procedures as was the case under the previous Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils.

12) I want to have a voice and to be listened to in relation to appropriate topics on appropriate occasions and I want the ability to take part in committees, forums and public meetings should I choose to do so.

13) I want the better and faster responses from Council staff that I used to get from the former Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils rather than the more ponderous and slower responses that are provided by the IWC.

14) I want my Councillors to be my neighbours, who are far more likely to properly understand and care about issues in my local area.

15) I want strong local leadership from a council which is truly local and to which I - as a local - can feel connected.

16) I want the current IWC to call upon those with genuine expertise in matters pertaining to local government to prepare a genuine business case for the de-amalgamation of the IWC. It is my view that such expertise should be fairly easily found at conveniently located institutions such as the University of Sydney, the University of NSW, Macquarie University,

to name only three

17) That concludes my submission, which has been prepared in haste due to the exceedingly short notice given by IWC of the fact that it will accept submissions on this matter.

[redacted]

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

The amalgamated council is not working for the residents. Services are diminished

We voted overwhelmingly throughout the IWC and the Council should respect those wishes and proceed with a strong case to the State Government.

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

From: "Clr Marghanita Da Cruz" <marghanita.da.cruz@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Sent: Mon, 18 Jul 2022 21:49:05 +1000
To: "Councillors" <support.councillors@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: micromex survey on demerger

Feedback on why this person voted to demerge.
For inclusion in survey analysis
Marghanita

Clr Marghanita da Cruz
Gulgadya - Leichhardt Ward, Inner West Council
Phone: 0490-788-943
Blog: https://perambuler.ramin.com.au/search/label/Clr%20Marghanita%20da%20Cruz
Web: https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/about/the-council/mayor-and-councillors

Clr Marghanita Da Cruz
Leichhardt Ward - Gulgadya (Grass Tree)
p 0490 788 943 e marghanita.da.cruz@innerwest.nsw.gov.au

INNER WEST

Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of these lands, the Gadigal-Wangal people of the Eora Nation.

Moving? Decluttering?
Book a free Council Clean-up

From: [redacted]
July 18, 2022 7:22 pm
To: Clr Marghanita Da Cruz <marghanita.da.cruz@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: micromex survey on demerger

Clr Marghanita Da Cruz,

Dear Councillor,

Document Set ID: 36591118
Version Date: 19/07/2022

I'm writing to express my grave concern at the micromex survey on the council demerger process on the Inner West Council website and currently being used in a telephone questionnaire.

The survey framing and questions are clearly push-polling against proceeding with a demerger application and seems to be an attempt to undermine the strong 62.5% YES vote in the December 2021 poll on demerging IWC.

More people voted in the poll than did in the election of councillors, and the vote to demerge was strong across all three former councils.

It is grossly undemocratic to use surveys in this way.

I would like to know:

1. How the micromex survey framing and questions were drawn up?

2. Who came up with options A, B and C and the estimated costs?

3. How much is being paid to micromex to conduct the survey?

The reason I support the de-amalgamation include:-

- We the people voted on the de-amalgamation, the majority of the community voted to de-amalgamate. So therefore listen and act on what we voted for. You may wish to stay BIG, whatever your personal ambitions may be, but we do not want this.

- BIG Council has lost it's way, it does not care about local communities or rate payers, it cares only for personal politics and the ambitions of the Councillors who occupy this space.

- Party Politics should be banned from Council, Councils should be non-political.

- This Council has become a vehicle for Councillors for personal power, career ambitions and is seen as by many Councillors as a stepping stone to state and federal politics, they have no empathy for ratepayers and community.

- Big Council seem to want to emulate another level of government and control; the Council is simply an arm of the Department of Local Government. Do we even need Councillors? What

Document Set ID: 36591118
Version Date: 19/07/2022

value do they offer? Do we really need a Mayor? What value is there in having a Mayor?We the people should be able to select the mayor and deputy mayor we want. The mayors term of office should be limited to a one off term of 2 years, not based on a majority vote of Councillors. Councillors are here to serve the people and their local community.

- Councils need to be small and local, BIG Council and centralisation is not good for local communities. BIG Councils are expensive and cost a lot of money (ratepayer money) to run, Big Councils employ lots of expensive management and departments which have nothing to do with local government. Big Councils are inherently inefficient.

- BIG Council focus to much on non local issues, political correctness, grants and agendas using ratepayers money to support these issues and policies.

BIG Council is only interested in their own corporate structure and power. Politics and other agendas prevail, they have lost their way and the reason for being. Community and ratepayers are ignored and treated without respect. The ratepayer is seen as a cash cow, you may not be aware but under the Commonwealth Constitution of Australia rates on property are illegal.

- Council needs to get back to it's core services; road maintenance, pathway maintenance, cleanliness, waste collection, parks and gardens, etc; these have been sorely neglected. Just look around, look at the state of our paths and roads.

It's time that Council return to their core values in serving the community, this is best done by a small Council. Party politics needs to be banned from local council. Personal political career aspirations needs to be eliminated.

The survey commissioned should never have been commissioned, yet another waste of Council resources and funds, this needs to be raised with the minister for local government.

Council now needs to listen to the people and get the process of de-amalgamation started NOW.

Yours sincerely,

Document Set ID: 36591118
Version Date: 19/07/2022

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Document Set ID: 36591118
[redacted] Version Date: 19/07/2022

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie
Cc: yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com
Subject: Yes to deamalgamate
Date: Saturday, 30 July 2022 1:34:04 PM

You don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

30/07/2022

My Husband and I have lived in the Birchgrove/Balmain/Rozelle area since 1967, that being 55 years. In that time we have witnessed and been involved in many changes in the area which have been of benefit to the whole community. This is a unique and very historic area and needs to be preserved and respected rather than hand it over to "The Big Guns"who would rush in "Hell for Leather" chasing the big bucks and walking all over the little people. So we therefore add our voices to say a big YES to deamalgamation.
There are many points that I could be make to highlight the importance of considerations that need to include the community. So many good changes have been made through the then Leichhardt Council during our time here, and we believe this diverse community must have that returned to them, since our area has recently lost its voice and is being overidden by the big and mighty.

Sincerely
[redacted]

[redacted] email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

Its not working !!

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie
Cc: yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com
Subject: Submission re demerging July30
Date: Saturday, 30 July 2022 10:15:27 PM

You don't often get email from [redacted] Learn why this is important

Attention: Quinn Ritchie

Submission re Inner West Council Demerger 2022

Demerging was endorsed by over 62% of the community at the Local Government election in 2021. This is a clear result showing widespread dissatisfaction with the amalgamated IWC. Residents in all wards registered the desire to return to the three local Councils – Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville. Our Council was trusted with preparing a Business Case to achieve that result. Sadly, yet again, the amalgamated IWC has not represented its community in good faith. By choosing Morrison Low, without tender, and past bias shown in favour of amalgamation, a total disregard for community will is demonstrated.

The Business Case presented by Morrison Low does not reflect community expectations and is an ineffective document to be presented to the Minister.

Morrison Low is not the appropriate voice for our community. In the original amalgamation Morrison Low used unsubstantiated claims and this document repeats assumptions that cannot be justified. They include claims that there is insufficient data regarding demerging and that "services have improved" under IWC. Both of these points are demonstrably false. Demerging has been successful in other areas including Queensland. There are experts available in Local Government whose input was not sought. Even a casual observer would feel that, once again, this document is representing a case in support of amalgamation with its claims of increased rates and costs for demerging. In contrast, many residents comment on the fall in services which is exacerbated by a lack of local knowledge and interest shown by Councillors and staff. This reveals a wide disconnection between what this document presents and the experiences of residents.

Leichhardt Council was deemed "Fit for the Future" in all areas except for capacity. Claims were made that amalgamation would bring savings. Time has proven that this was a false assumption. Morrison Low did not recognise that projections about the benefits of amalgamation were unreliable.

Reduced representation

Residents have lost representation under IWC. Council areas are referred to as Local Government areas. There is nothing local about IWC. Each Councillor now has three times the number of residents in their ward and has to make decisions for communities that are unfamiliar to them.

Leichhardt Council worked effectively with an "Open Council" policy. Residents were encouraged to speak on items and discuss issues with Councillors. Councillors belonged to their local community and had firsthand knowledge of items raised. That is not the case with IWC.

IWC has also lost the knowledge and active participation of many volunteers. Bushcare groups, Precinct, and Heritage meetings as well as local events have all been reduced or disbanded. Many activities undertaken by volunteers reduced the cost incurred by Council and added value through community cohesion.

In conclusion, the Business Case prepared by Morrison Low is not an appropriate document to present for demerging. It fails to represent the community's will. An overwhelming result, recorded by the Electoral Commission at 62-5% should not be ignored. Residents want to

demerge and regain the level of representation and local identity that the three previous Councils, Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville enjoyed.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie
Cc: Inner West Council; yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com.
Subject: De-amalgamation Submission
Date: Saturday, 30 July 2022 3:50:02 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my support for the de-amalgamation of Inner West Council.

It seems to me that service delivery has become less efficient since amalgamation, rather than more efficient, as we were promised, and I note that the new council has run deficit budgets since its formation. We were told that the creation of a single large council would provide significant savings but the opposite seems to have been the case.

I work for a Sydney council that managed to avoid amalgamation. It continues to run effectively and efficiently and both staff and residents feel lucky to have dodged this bullet.

While the three former council areas were similar, they also had some significant differences and since amalgamation they have lost their distinctive local voice. I want council staff and councillors with excellent local knowledge. This is especially important when we need them to speak out on important local issues.

The process undertaken by the council to develop the business case for de-amalgamation is fatally flawed. It failed to undertake the community consultation that was required under NSW Treasury guidelines before the case was developed. Community consultation during the exhibition period of the business case has also been deplorable. It is little more than push-polling by a market research firm.

I believe there those on the council, elected and otherwise, who want to hold onto the 'power and glory' of being part of a larger entity. This is self-interest, not the community interest they regularly claim as their motivation for being in local government. The residents have spoken: they want de-amalgamation.

Regards, [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sun, 31 Jul 2022 15:10:28 +1000
To: "Inner West Council" <council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: De-amalgamation

You don't often get email from [redacted] Learn why this is important

Dear IW Council
We were among the 63% who voted for Inner West Council to de-amalgamate.
We want a council that is accessible for residents & provides a high standard of local services yet stands up to developers & the State govt.
Leichhardt Council had a long proud history, as did Marrickville & Ashfield, that many of us identified with. That has now all gone, & we are no better off.
The standards of Leichhardt services have noticeably decreased. There is a lot more rubbish in the streets, for example.
Also I have a disability & use a wheelchair. I was able to get to many events/ meetings in the Leichhardt Council building, like Feel the Love, the local Mardi Gras event. As a 78er, it was important to me to attend at least one Mardi Gras event. And now it is impossible for me to easily get there, independently, so I no longer attend, & I can no longer be involved in my local community.
So many of the local groups / resident advisory committees & volunteer organisations no longer exist, in our local community, like bush care groups.
Basic services have been downgraded, cut or privatised, which is obvious to long-term residents, in areas like parks & gardens & footpath maintenance.
Everything is about the almighty dollar & saving money. Yet Leichhardt Council was never in debt, as IW Council is now. Forced amalgamation has been a disaster for The residents of Leichhardt. We voted to reverse it, so we demand that IW Council represent the wishes of the residents & de-amalgamate now.
Please respect the democratic rights of residents !
[redacted]

Document Set ID: 36643916
Version: 1, Version Date: 02/08/2022

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

I have a voice having lived in the same house since 1978. Paying rates. I am not happy with our service & councilors not able to assist residents - street + service [illegible] Jean - [illegible]

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie; Inner West Council; Mayor, Darcy Byrne; Clr Kobi Shetty; Clr John Stamolis; Clr Liz Atkins; Clr Pauline Lockie; Clr Chloe Smith; Deputy Mayor, Jessica D'Arienzo; Clr Mark Drury; Clr Dylan Griffiths; Clr Marghanita Da Cruz; Clr Philippa Scott; Clr Tim Stephens; Clr Mat Howard; Clr Justine Langford; Clr Zoi Tsardoulias
Subject: De-Amalgamation Submission
Date: Sunday, 31 July 2022 9:41:25 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [redacted]
Learn why this is important

Good evening

As a local resident, advocate and community worker I would like to add my voice to the de-amalgamation submission.

I am very disappointed with the consultation, engagement and communication of the de-amalgamation process and input into the business case.

In particular, the consultants who put forward the amalgamation case have been given the responsibility to prepare the de-amalgamation case. The amalgamation case was filled with flaws in its assumptions that have not come into effect, negatively impacted residents and resulted in loss of Council expertise. I understand that the argument is they have the most knowledge which does not pass the 'pub test'.

My submission is outlined as follows:

1. I want easy access to council meetings in my local area. Currently most Council meetings are located in Ashfield.

2. Local voices are listened to and valued with a smaller council.

3. I want strong local leadership from a council which is truly local. Not leadership who seeks to garner more representative power at the cost of residents' access to democracy.

4. As a local I want to feel connected to my local council. There is no direct public transport across the council area.

5. I want my Councillors to be my neighbours and to truly understand and care about issues in my local area. Councillors from Marrickville and Ashfield have very little understanding of the concerns of local residents.

6. I want to see our heritage Council Chambers and community buildings in use again for council and resident initiated committee meetings.

7. I am not happy with the Inner West Council. Since it was formed it has run deficit budgets. The three former councils were financially sound and, for example, Leichhardt Council had a budget surplus for the 10 years previous to the amalgamation.

8. I want the better and faster responsiveness from council staff who know my local area well and genuinely care about it. This has been lost since the forced amalgamation.

9. I want council staff and Councillors with excellent local knowledge. I would like to see them in the local area.

10. The Inner West Council is not an effective advocate on important local issues. The meeting agendas items are incredibly long and with less representation.

11. It is too big, staff are too stretched and most of the Councillors are not local.

12. The three former Councils had strong and effective advocates for their local communities.

13. I am better represented in a smaller council with fewer residents per Councillor and Councillors who all live locally.

14. I know services are not at the level they were with the previous councils. I want a return to the service levels we had then.

15. The Inner West Council functions like a large corporation: the unelected council officers have huge powers are not under subject to resident scrutiny.

16. It is a precious and important part of our community's well being to live in a genuine local democracy. This democracy was removed by State Government for political reasons.

17. The former Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield Councils were as close as it gets to being genuine local democracies: residents spoke at council meetings and then bore witnesses as the issues were debated. They participated in Committees, forums and public meetings. All this has been lost with the Inner West Council.

18. The process undertaken to develop the de-amalgamation business case by IWC is fatally flawed. It failed to undertake the community consultation that was required as per NSW Treasury guidelines before the case to de-amalgamate was developed.

19. The community consultation during the exhibition period of the current business case has also been deplorable. It is no more than blatant push-polling by a market research firm.

20. If state government has representation of four State MP's in the geographical area IWC council covers, then how can IWC Business Case argue that local councillors have the capacity to cover such a large area and represent their residents?

In conclusion I am particularly concerned that negative bias information of the survey regarding the de-amalgamation process, lack of consultation and information which I have heard that the outcome would not be supported by the State government before a business case has been submitted.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie; Inner West Council
Cc: yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com
Subject: De-amalgamate IWC
Date: Sunday, 31 July 2022 9:37:24 AM

[You don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important at https://aka ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

I vote YES to de-amalgamate IWC.
I want my councillors to be my neighbours and to truly understand and care about issues in my local area.
The Inner West Council is too big and too stretched, and services are not at the level they were with Leichhardt Council. Our grass verges and parks are so badly looked after and neglected. There are weeds everywhere on out footpaths etc. We should have a council that will look after and care for our suburbs.
Leichhardt Council was as close as it gets to being a genuine democracy. All this has been lost with the Inner West Council. Inner West Council is too big and covers too many areas so our Leichhardt Council area is totally not looked after the way it should be for the rates we pay.
I have lived here for 47 years and have not been so unhappy with my council as now.
Regards
Lois Bonett

[redacted]

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

- I want the Councillors to live locally & understand issues relevant to Balmain / Rozelle Leichhardt.
- I would like Council meetings returned to Leichhardt Council Chambers. & Balmain Town Hall.
- I will feel better represented in a smaller Council with fewer residents per Councillor.

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

[redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

- The service levels of the Inner West Council are far below what they were under the Leichhardt council & I would like to see a return to the Leichhardt Council.
- The streets in the former Leichhardt council area are not maintained as they were prior to amalgamation. This relates to weeds, drain maintenance, pot holes etc.
- Waste Collection wheelie bins are often missed at collection.
- The Inner West Council Website is not user friendly and there are long wait times to speak to a council representative, which was not the case before.
- One model does not work across the whole inner west council area. Ie parking permits schemes.
- Large amounts of rate payers money is being wasted on unnecessary art projects. Especially the installation next to the Balmain Telephone Exchange. It has no artistic merit & does not fit in with the aesthetic of the area.
- The new council clean-up model of booked collection is not feasible, due to too many categories & proper consultations with the community was not undertaken prior to its implementation.
- I would like less online surveys & more council meetings in my local area. I feel my voice is not being heard and the inner west councils surveys are often confusing & biased.
  In my opinion this is also the case with the survey run through micromex for the councils de amalgamation business case.

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed:

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie; Inner West Council
Cc: yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com
Subject: Support Deamagamation
Date: Saturday, 30 July 2022 8:28:24 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [redacted] Learn why this is important

Dear Council

This is a short note to say I strongly support deamalgamation of the Inner West Council. I just wish we had the backbone of the Canada Bay resisdents to resist at the time.

Regards

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie
Subject: Submission on De-amalgamation
Date: Friday, 29 July 2022 8:09:32 AM

You don't often get email from [redacted] Learn why this is important

Quinn Ritchie,

Attn: Inner West Council

I wish to make a submission on the de-amalgamation of Inner West Council. I support de-amalgamation to the former council areas of Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield for the following reasons:

1. I want easy access to council meetings in my local area.

2. I have a voice and I am listened to and valued with a smaller council.

3. I want strong local leadership from a council which is truly local.

4. As a local I want to feel connected to my local council.

5. I want my Councillors to be my neighbours and to truly understand and care about issues in my local area.

6. I want to see our heritage Council Chambers and community buildings in use again for council and resident initiated committee meetings.

7. I am not happy with the Inner West Council. Since it was formed it has run deficit budgets. The three former councils were financially sound and, for example, Leichhardt Council had a budget surplus for the 10 years previous to the amalgamation.

8. I want the better and faster responsiveness from council staff who know my local area well and genuinely care about it. This has been lost since the forced amalgamation.

9. I want council staff and Councillors with excellent local knowledge.

10. The Inner West Council is not an effective advocate on important local issues.

11. It is too big, staff are too stretched and most of the Councillors are not local.

12. The three former Councils had strong and effective advocates for their local communities.

13. I am better represented in a smaller council with fewer residents per Councillor and Councillors who all live locally.

14. I know services are not at the level they were with the previous councils. I want a return to the service levels we had then.

15. The Inner West Council functions like a large corporation: the unelected council

officers have huge powers and are not subject to resident scrutiny.

16. It is a precious and important part of our community's well being to live in a genuine local democracy.

17. The former Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield Councils were as close as it gets to being genuine local democracies: residents spoke at council meetings and then bore witnesses as the issues were debated. They participated in Committees, forums and public meetings. All this has been lost with the Inner West Council.

18. The process undertaken to develop the de-amalgamation business case by IWC is fatally flawed. It failed to undertake the community consultation that was required as per NSW Treasury guidelines before the case to de-amalgamate was developed.

19. The community consultation during the exhibition period of the current business case has also been deplorable. It is no more than blatant push-polling by a market research firm.

20. The community vote needs to be listened too & not treated as something irrelevant. The Labor blockade means community wants are ignored or minimised.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie; Inner West Council
Cc: yes deamalgamate
Subject: De-amalgamation report - Morrison & Low
Date: Friday, 29 July 2022 4:57:40 PM

Following is my submission to de-amalgamate.

The Morrison Low submission is not supported by 7 councilllors. It therefore does no reflect the community's wishes. Only Labor councillors support it.

Morrison Low supplied a report on the amalgamation process. The findings were wildly wrong especially the expected savings. I have no confidence their findings on de-amalgamation are correct.

Other competent people with years of experience in the field were not given the opportunity to report.

The phone poll asked leading questions and made assumptions. It should not be considered. I resent Council spending ratepayers funds this way.

The poll on voting day where 62.3% voted for de-amalgamation is the only valid pole.

The Morrison Low report does not represent the goals, aims and needs of residents. It is a biased document prepared for Labor who want to stay amalgamated. More than half the community don't.

I also concur with the following points.

1. I want easy access to council meetings in my local area.

2. I have a voice and I am listened to and valued with a smaller council.

3. I want strong local leadership from a council which is truly local.

4. As a local I want to feel connected to my local council.

5. I want my Councillors to be my neighbours and to truly understand and care about issues in my local area.

6. I want to see our heritage Council Chambers and community buildings in use again for council and resident initiated committee meetings.

7. I am not happy with the Inner West Council. Since it was formed it has run deficit budgets. The three former councils were financially sound and, for example, Leichhardt Council had a budget surplus for the 10 years previous to the amalgamation.

8. I want the better and faster responsiveness from council staff who know my local area well and genuinely care about it. This has been lost since the forced amalgamation.

9. I want council staff and Councillors with excellent local knowledge.

10. The Inner West Council is not an effective advocate on important local issues.

11. It is too big, staff are too stretched and most of the Councillors are not local.

12. The three former Councils had strong and effective advocates for their local communities.

13. I am better represented in a smaller council with fewer residents per Councillor and Councillors who all live locally.

14. I know services are not at the level they were with the previous councils. I want a return to the service levels we had then.

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16. It is a precious and important part of our community's well being to live in a genuine local democracy.

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18. The process undertaken to develop the de-amalgamation business case by IWC is fatally flawed. It failed to undertake the community consultation that was required as per NSW Treasury guidelines before the case to de-amalgamate was developed.

19. The community consultation during the exhibition period of the current business case has also been deplorable. It is no more than blatant push-polling by a market research firm.

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

OUR COUNCIL WAS FINE
CANT GET THINGS DONE
ON TIME. MORE PAPER
WORK TIME CONSUMING
ON THE PHONE

Come on Darcy Make it happen

SEPERATE COUNCILS.

YES

LEICHHARDT COUNCIL ON ITS OWN YES

YES-

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

TO: Inner West Council

This is my submission concerning the De-Amalgamation of the Inner West Council consultation:

Dear Ms./Sir,

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council, so that we return to the three Councils that were previously working well: Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield.

My reasons are as follows:

- I was very happy with the work of our previous Leichhardt Council. There is a common saying that goes, “if it isn’t broken – don’t fix it.” There was nothing to fix in my area, but Mike Baird’s Liberal Party saw political advantage in amalgamating councils.
- Leichhardt Council had a population base of around 70,000, which a number of studies have shown to be the ‘sweet spot’ for efficient councils. The Inner West Council now tries to serve a population of over 200,000, which is far too large and unwieldly.
- I was connected to the Leichhardt Councillors, but that connection has now been lost. It is common sense that the 36 Councillors who served the three previous smaller Councils provided close contact with residents than the 15 who now represent 200,000+ residents.
- Our previous Leichhardt Council met its budget for the last eight years of its existence. In fact, the Leichhardt Council had several years where there was a budget surplus. The Inner West Council has yet to match the financial acumen of the previous Leichhardt Council, which is not to say that the IWC is incompetent, but simply that large Councils do not seem to possess the financial advantages of smaller councils.
- Leichhardt Council had Resident Precinct Committees at which I saw and spoke with Leichhardt Councillors, but the IWC has no Resident Precinct Committees. The close connection between residents and Councillors has been lost.
- Many of the current Councillors in the IWC have no knowledge of my part of the current Council area. The previous Leichhardt Councillors knew intimately the Balmain/Rozelle/Leichhardt area. We now have Councillors from Ashfield and Marrickville who most likely rarely, perhaps never, visit my area. This point is even more telling given the fact that at least one of the current I.W. Councillors does not live anywhere within the Inner West Council area.
- Leichhardt Council possessed a local intimacy that has been lost. The Inner West Council is simply another large corporation, which is increasingly careless in how it treats residents.

- Much of our local democracy has been lost. People often toss the word ‘democracy’ around casually, but it does work at a local level. I don’t believe that the IWCouncil is truly ‘democratic’, as evidenced by the removal of opportunities for residents to speak to Councillors, e.g. fewer & fewer Council meetings; reduced lengths of time to express opinions; Council meetings at ridiculous hours such as 10 p.m. and later. The IWC seems to not want to hear from residents.
- I do not sense any – actually NO – improvements in the switch from a smaller council to a larger one. Mike Baird’s promises of efficiencies have proven totally false. We were lied to and the lies are still being forced on residents.
- I attended numerous Council meetings in Leichhardt, but now that the IWC is based mostly in Ashfield I have been unable to attend even a single meeting. In other words, my representative democracy has been compromised.
- Finally, 62.5% of the residents across all three of the old council areas voted to de-amalgamate. If that de-amalgamation does not happen then voting in this so-called democracy of ours will obviously mean nothing. Either the wishes of the people are followed or you do a great dis-service to so-called democratic government. If the Inner West Council now works toward retaining the forced and therefore un-democratic amalgamation, then we residents and voters will know that our democratic rights have been betrayed.

Sincerely yours,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
[redacted]
Cc: Quinn Ritchie
Subject: yes deamalgamate
Date: Demerging submission July 2022
Sunday, 31 July 2022 5:38:34 PM

You don't often get email from [redacted] Learn why this is important

Submission re de-amalgamation of Inner West Council

Attention : Mr Quinn Ritchie

Submissions have been open regarding the de-amalgamation of Inner West Council. After a forced and ineffective amalgamation, residents were able to voice their point of view and voted with 62% in favour of de-amalgamation. The community is extremely dissatisfied with the current unwieldy IWC. That result was gained across all three areas where the community voiced a desire to return to "local" Council areas.

The survey prepared to gain input on the issue was heavily slanted towards remaining in amalgamation. From the outset there has been an agenda promoted by some Councillors which favours the amalgamation. Wording in the plebiscite that it was "not binding" introduced an ongoing lack of transparency and actual progress of the community's resolve to return to the three former Council areas. Without a tender and/or input into the Business Case, leaders at IWC chose Morrison Low. Bias in presentation of ideas and selection of information makes the Business Case they prepared ineffective. Residents were given no opportunity to contribute to the document which is counter to State Treasury guidelines. Councillors were treated with total disrespect when they were presented with a Business Case which is severely lacking in objectivity. Claims that services have improved are false. Predictions that rates will rise cannot be justified. Statements using emotive language like "risks" without a logical basis are unacceptable. Our community deserves a much better Business Case.

Problems that exist with the Inner West Council and justify its de-amalgamation include:

1. Representation was reduced by amalgamation. The local Council area and population exceeds electoral boundaries. That is not local government.
2. Councillors no longer have a close affiliation with the area covered. Residents feel that there is no personal interaction and understanding of local, community issues.
3. Staff have been tasked with an overwhelming workload in trying to cover such a wide, diverse area. Local knowledge and talented, enthusiastic staff have been lost.
4. Community groups used to volunteer and took pride in local activities which reinforced Council's role and provided cost free expertise. Some of the lost input includes Precinct meetings, environmental and heritage groups, facility management and liaison groups.
5. Ashfield Town Hall is not a reasonable venue for meetings. It is geographically remote from the other districts and access to meetings is limited. An escort is needed for the lift.
6. Instability in leadership positions at IWC has shown that staff are unable to cope with the demands imposed on them.
7. Expected "benefits" have not eventuated. The argument that a bigger Council would reduce duplication and run more efficiently has been proven to be inaccurate. From a sound financial basis as Leichhardt Council, we now face mounting debt, deficit and future rate increases.
8. Services have deteriorated. Local parks no longer have the care and sense of pride shown by workers who were often local themselves.

There are so many reasons that the IWC should be disbanded. It is time to return to the three former Council areas. The Morrison Low Business Case does not argue the residents' will strongly enough and Council is not supporting the demerger vote effectively.

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following: My name is Meira Forrest & I have lived in Balmain for over 38 yrs and;-

- I want easy access to council meetings in my local area
- As a local I want to feel connected to my local council (IWC)
- I am not happy with the Inner West Council I have just returned from living overseas for past 10 yrs & back 18 months now & that since (IWC) was formed it has run huge deficits budgets & that Leichhardt Council had a budget surplus for the 10 yrs +++ previous to the amalgamation.
- I want a more effective & faster responsiveness from Council staff who know my local area well & Genuinely care about it. I currently don't get this with the (IWC).

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

I want strong local leadership from a Council which is truly local. I want my Councillors to be my neighbours and to truly understand and care about issues in my local area.

I want my Council back!!!

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

- better presented on smaller council

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie
Cc: Yes Deamalgamate
Subject: Survey reply to Council either to Stay Amalgamate or Deamalgamate.
Date: Sunday, 31 July 2022 7:08:30 PM

You don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

Foreward.

This Survey has been organised by Labor Councillors, and goes against a commitment by the Labor and now Mayor they would follow the wishes of The Community at the 4th December Councillors elections.

62.5% of the Community voted to Deamalgamate, the other 37.5 % cannot be assumed it was NO vote, as voters who voted by phone, had The Electrol Office telephone system having a fault.

The YES vote, was a more relative result, as Voting was compulsory.
Actions to present a new NO vote, by email, cannot reach ALL the Community, as not everyone uses the Internet, nor English being the First language.

This means the Survey is limited and not an accurate challenge to the Yes vote.

REASONS TO DEAMALGAMATE.

1) Council Personnel.
More Office Personnel appointed.(Administrative)...wages spend.
5 Staff appointed to Mayors staff for Media promotion.

Outdoor Staff and Equipment ....Services reduced, repairs to footpaths and Roads neglected.

2) The Computer Customer Service Model
A Computer that is Inadequate, and costly, unable to manage enquiry handling in a timely manner.
$10m and increasing costs due to Council size.

3) The Shared Ombudsman's Office.
A new Service, which has a shared cost to IWC of $300,000, without a cost Benefit analysis.

4) The IWPP

This is an imposed Service by the previous Baird Government with high costs and consideration to impacts on local residents.

5). The Rates Harmonisation.

This was a rates aggregation, that failed in it's application.
A costly inefficient process, that has been farcical and costly.

With Deamalgamation.

The proposed and previous 3 Councils, can look and introduce shared services, at a lower cost and be more pro active with outcomes.

Less NoN essential staff, can be identified, with a less administrative cost to manage.

The Current problematic Computer system, can be more operational and friendly with lesser users.

Councillors for 3 Councils, can be more in tune to Community needs.

Current Council meetings, cannot cover all the Agenda items, making it less efficient, 3 Councils, can address more rapidly their local issues.

There can be Wage Savings, with GM and Mayors salaries reduced due to lesser Administrarive smaller Size 3 Council.

It is apparent, with the size of Current IWC, there is searching of what the Community wants that are needed.
This by holding Forums and various Groups.
This shows how out of touch and a lack of needs of the Community wants.

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie
Subject: Re: Survey reply to Council either to Stay Amalgamate or Deamalgamate.
Date: Monday, 1 August 2022 10:28:33 AM

You don't often get email from [redacted] Learn why this is important

Dear Quinn,

If not too late..additional.

The ML report commissioned ...full of supposition on costs to Deamalgamate.
An unfounded baseless factual projection on Councils future operating costs.
Wages demands and CPI increases unknown.

[redacted]

[redacted], 1 August 2022, 9:28:00 am AEST, Quinn Ritchie <quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au> wrote:

Dear [redacted]

Thank you for taking the time to write a submission for the de-amalgamation business case. Your response will be included in the engagement outcomes report.

Kind regards,

Quinn Ritchie
Engagement Officer
p +61 2 9392 5870 e quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au

Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of these lands, the Gadigal-Wangal people of the Eora Nation.

From: [redacted]
Sent: Sunday, 31 July 2022 7:08 PM
To: Quinn Ritchie <quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>

Cc: Yes Deamalgamate <yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com>
Subject: Survey reply to Council either to Stay Amalgamate or Deamalgamate.

You don't often get email from [redacted] Learn why this is important

Foreward.

This Survey has been organised by Labor Councillors, and goes against a commitment by the Labor and now Mayor they would follow the wishes of The Community at the 4th December Councillors elections.

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handling in a timely manner.

$10m and increasing costs due to Council size.

3) The Shared Ombudsman's Office.

A new Service, which has a shared cost to IWC of $300,000, without a cost Benefit analysis.

4) The IWPP

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Less NoN essential staff, can be identified, with a less administrative cost to manage.

The Current problematic Computer system, can be more operational and friendly with lesser users.

Councillors for 3 Councils, can be more in tune to Community needs.

Current Council meetings, cannot cover all the Agenda items, making it less efficient, 3 Councils, can address more rapidly their local issues.

There can be Wage Savings, with GM and Mayors salaries reduced due to lesser Administrarive smaller Size 3 Council.

It is apparent, with the size of Current IWC, there is searching of what the Community wants that are needed.

This by holding Forums and various Groups.

This shows how out of touch and a lack of needs of the Community wants.

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is:

My ~~email~~/phone number is:

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

I WANT STRONG LEADERSHIP FROM A COUNCIL WHICH IS TRULY LOCAL.

I WANT BETTER AND FASTER RESPONSIVENESS FROM COUNCIL STAFF WHO KNOW MY LOCAL AREA WELL AND GENUINELY CARE ABOUT IT.

I AM BETTER REPRESENTED IN A SMALLER COUNCIL WITH FEWER RESIDENTS PER COUNCILLOR AND COUNCILLORS WHO LIVE LOCALLY.

I KNOW SERVICES ARE NOT AT THE LEVEL THEY WERE AT LEICHHARDT COUNCIL. I WANT A RETURN TO THE SERVICE LEVELS WE HAD WITH LEICHHARDT COUNCIL.

I SUPPORT THE DE-AMALGAMATION PROCEEDING

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Inner West Council; Quinn Ritchie
Subject: YES to de-amalgamation of Inner West Council
Date: Monday, 1 August 2022 7:04:32 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [redacted]
Learn why this is important

I would like to see the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council to go ahead.

Since the amalgamation of the inner west councils the service to the rate payers has somewhat suffered. In the 29 years that I have resided in the area I have never seen it in such an unkempt state.

Please accept this correspondence as a YES from me to de-amalgamate!

Warmest regards

[redacted]

Sent from my iPad

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

- Experienced poorer services.

- Lack of Community involvement.

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie
Cc: yes deamalgamate; Inner West Council
Subject: De-AMALGAMATION
Date: Sunday, 31 July 2022 1:57:50 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [redacted]
Learn why this is important

Dear Sir/ Madam,
I attended all the pre amalgamation public meetings and 90% of the attendees were not in favour of amalgamation. It was forced upon us!
This forced amalgamation diluted our democracy and therefore an undemocratic act,
It is an affront to our Civil rights.
As local citizens we have been wronged philosophically and are let down every day with inferior practical services and access, such as

Easy access to council meetings.
Strong local leadership from a truly local council.
I want my councillor to live in my area and understand my local area issues.

The Ward system in the former Leichhardt Council gave us locals a direct line to our councillors.

A citizen in Birchgrove does NOT know much about Mackey Park in Marrickville and a citizen in South Marrickville dose not know much about Callan Park in Rozelle.

We as humans live in a community not an economy,
We want our full rights back, we want Our Leichhardt Council back.
De-AMALGAMATION is the only "just" way forward.

Regards
[redacted]

Sent from my Galaxy

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

Merger failed to deliver on cost efficiencies

Combined council is not serving local needs

We've tried the merger and most residents don't like

Local councillors familiar with our local needs

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie; Inner West Council
Cc: [redacted] yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com
Subject: Deamalgamation submission.
Date: Saturday, 30 July 2022 8:08:25 AM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

Dear Sir/madam,

I wish to lodge a submission on the question of deamalgamation. I ask that you give serious consideration to the following;

- De amalgamation was overwhelmingly favoured by the residents of the Inner West with 62.5% supporting this at the recent poll conducted with the Council elections in December and approximately 68 % on the Balmain peninsula.

- It is a precious and important part of our community's wellbeing to live in a genuine local democracy so we must respect the wishes of the majority and disband the IWC.

- I am extremely unhappy with the Inner West Council (IWC) as it as shown itself to be anti-resident. Since it was formed it has run deficit budgets. The three former councils were financially sound. For example, Leichhardt Council had a budget surplus for the 10 years previous to the amalgamation and is now in debt, thanks to the IWC, to the tune of some $20,000,000!

- The process undertaken to develop the de-amalgamation business case by IWC is fatally flawed. It failed to undertake the community consultation that was required as per NSW Treasury guidelines before the case to de-amalgamate was developed.

- The cost of deamalgamation is not an issue as provision exists for this to be borne by the State Government. This is not made clear in any of the pro IWC amalgamation arguments presented by the IWC.

- Easy access to council meetings in my local area is no longer possible given the increasing difficulty in travelling in an ever more crowded inner city.

- A smaller council translates into better representation and easier access to my elected representative.

- Local councillors should reside in the area that they represent, but the mayor who is one

of the three Balmain councillors, lives outside of the ward area and as such his election should be independently investigated and if proven to breach the requirements of the Electoral Act, deemed to be invalid. This is something that the IWC should have oversight of.

- It is vital that my Councillors live in my area and truly understand and care about local issues.

- I believe we are all entitled to strong local leadership from a council which is truly local.

- The three former Councils were made up of strong and effective advocates for their local communities.

- Smaller councils mean we all are better represented with fewer residents per Councillor and especially so if Councillors all live locally.

- I want to see our heritage Council Chambers and community buildings in use again for council and resident initiated committee meetings.

- The concept of Open Council initiated some 40 years ago by Leichhardt Council has been white anted to the point where it is almost impossible to participate.

- It is in the community's interest to see a return to the better and faster responsiveness from council staff who know the local area well and who genuinely care about it. This has been lost since the forced amalgamation.

- I want council staff and Councillors who aren't paid exorbitant salaries and who possess excellent local knowledge.

- The Inner West Council is not representative of the community and is far from an effective advocate on important local issues such as the filtering of the four exhaust stacks in Rozelle and ensuring that WestConnex contractors park on site rather than usurp resident parking.

- The IWC is too big, unwieldy, staff are too stretched and are inaccessible, and most of the Councillors are not interested in matters that they adjudicate on, if it isn't a local issue.

- I know services are well below the level they were with the previous councils. I want a return to the service levels we had then.

- The IWC functions like a large corporation. The unelected council officers have huge powers are not under subject to resident scrutiny.

- The former Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield Councils were as close as it gets to being genuine local democracies: residents spoke at council meetings and were able to witnesses all of the issues being debated. They participated in Committees, forums and public meetings. All of this has been lost with the Inner West Council.

- The IWC only benefits highly overpaid senior staff and ensures the domination of the two party system. The Australian Labor Party dominated Council support the amenity destroying and heavily polluting projects such as WestConnex. They also support the introduction of high rise development in areas of historic significance, such as the mayor's push to erect the Balmain League's Club towers.

- The overpayment of top heavy middle and upper management means less money for the provision of essential services and thus ensures rates will rise.

- The community consultation during the exhibition period of the current business case has also been deplorable. It is no more than blatant push-polling by a market research firm. I refuse to participate in the so called "survey" because of its overt bias and gross misrepresentation of the facts.

- The IWC's mayor's response to letters listing concerns does not address those concerns and many who have written citing specific complaints all have received the same form letter.

- The IWC is now one of the most undemocratic local councils in NSW, if not the country. I want Leichhardt Council returned and the costs associated with both amalgamation and deamalgamation to be borne by the NSW Government. Provision exists for this but it requires effective leadership which sadly is woefully lacking with the IWC, especially under the stewardship of the current mayor.

Sincerely

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie
Subject: Submission on De-amalgamation
Date: Thursday, 28 July 2022 8:28:40 PM

You don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

Quinn Ritchie,

Attn: Inner West Council

I wish to make a submission on the de-amalgamation of Inner West Council. I support de-amalgamation to the former council areas of Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield for the following reasons:

1. I want easy access to council meetings in my local area.

2. I have a voice and I am listened to and valued with a smaller council.

3. I want strong local leadership from a council which is truly local.

4. As a local I want to feel connected to my local council.

5. I want my Councillors to be my neighbours and to truly understand and care about issues in my local area.

6. I want to see our heritage Council Chambers and community buildings in use again for council and resident initiated committee meetings.

7. I am not happy with the Inner West Council. Since it was formed it has run deficit budgets. The three former councils were financially sound and, for example, Leichhardt Council had a budget surplus for the 10 years previous to the amalgamation.

8. I want the better and faster responsiveness from council staff who know my local area well and genuinely care about it. This has been lost since the forced amalgamation.

9. I want council staff and Councillors with excellent local knowledge.

10. The Inner West Council is not an effective advocate on important local issues.

11. It is too big, staff are too stretched and most of the Councillors are not local.

12. The three former Councils had strong and effective advocates for their local communities.

13. I am better represented in a smaller council with fewer residents per Councillor and Councillors who all live locally.

14. I know services are not at the level they were with the previous councils. I want a return to the service levels we had then.

15. The Inner West Council functions like a large corporation: the unelected council

officers have huge powers and are not subject to resident scrutiny.

16. It is a precious and important part of our community's well being to live in a genuine local democracy.

17. The former Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield Councils were as close as it gets to being genuine local democracies: residents spoke at council meetings and then bore witnesses as the issues were debated. They participated in Committees, forums and public meetings. All this has been lost with the Inner West Council.

18. The process undertaken to develop the de-amalgamation business case by IWC is fatally flawed. It failed to undertake the community consultation that was required as per NSW Treasury guidelines before the case to de-amalgamate was developed.

19. The community consultation during the exhibition period of the current business case has also been deplorable. It is no more than blatant push-polling by a market research firm.

[redacted]

Deamalgamate IWC to keep council local

[redacted]

Thu 28/07/2022 09:38

To: Quinn Ritchie <quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Inner West Council <council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

Dear Mr Quinn Ritchie,

The draft demerger business case, written by the private consultancy firm Morrison Low, does not make a serious case to the NSW government to allow the Inner West council to demerge back to the Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils as 62.5% of residents expressed their support for in the December 2021 poll.

In addition, the council's "community consultation" is a farce. The Micromex survey is a push-poll scare exercise which blatantly asks residents the very same question they voted on in December 2021.

It is extraordinary the IWC decided to go back to the same firm which produced the case for council *not* to deamalgamate before the poll last year.

Instead of putting the brief out to tender, the IWC paid ML for what appears to be a hasty rework of its anti-demerger case from 2021 that was designed to sway residents that the costs would be prohibitive — even though the law has changed to make it incumbent on the NSW government to pay the transition costs.

We were informed that the ML business case was done at a "high level" and based on a total budget that existed 8 years ago adjusted for service and cost changes.

How can a plan to return to what existed before, with a theoretical calculation based on 2014-1015 structures be given to the NSW government as a concrete plan to move forward to demerge the IWC?

The ML business case does not look at how the IWC council could feasibly demerge over a period of time.

Instead, it projects millions of dollars as the "cost" of demerging over 10-20 years. Its new modelling puts the ongoing "costs" at $24 million.

While modeling into the future is difficult, ML has made it harder by not consulting with local government experts (some of whom have offered to help), nor did it consult pro-demerger councillors, or residents.

The ML report also stopped short of investigating how a demerged council *could* share services. It did not project how or which services. It did not project it could be managed without sacking the elected councillors and introducing an administrator.

Reasons for a demerger

There are many reasons why 62.5% of inner west residents voted to demerge.

They include:

- Rising rates alongside a decline in services;
- A decline in local representation;
- A decline in community consultation on planning matters;
- Councillors are now expected to be experts on all IWC issues, not just their ward;

• Amalgamation has led to greater inefficiencies – the opposite of what was promised;

• The IWC budget is going backwards when at least 2 of the 3 former councils were financially sound;

• The forced merger led to instability at council, with knowledgeable staff stepping down, being forced to take redundancies;

• Precinct committees – a vehicle for residents to connect with councillors — have been junked and Labor opposes them being reestablished;

• Resident input into council deliberations has become little more than a tick-a-box exercise;

• Residents enjoyed their individual communities: each former council has its own sub-culture and somewhat different issues;

• Each de-amalgamated council could share and benefit from cooperative savings, events and solutions;

• Smaller, more focused councils would better address our neighbourhoods' needs;

• Services, such as waste, swimming centres etc must not be outsourced — as happened under the forced amalgamation;

• Vibrant, community-led programs, such as a bush care program supported by Leichhardt Council, was decimated by the IWC;

• All three councils were solvent and objected to the NSW government's forced amalgamation in 2016.

I hope you will act on residents' clear wishes from the December poll and ensure that the business case the IWC puts to the NSW government is *redrafted to be a comprehensive argument for demerger.* There is no particular rush and we have to get this right.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

I acknowledge the Gadigal-Wangal people of the Eora Nation. Sovereignty never ceded.

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie
Subject: Submission on De-amalgamation
Date: Sunday, 31 July 2022 7:18:04 PM

Quinn Ritchie,

Attn: Inner West Council

Please note that I am unhappy with the mega Inner West Council and support the de-amalgamation to the former council areas of Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield. I voted YES for amalgamation at the council election, as did almost 63% of the electorate. I'm very concerned that IWC has not wholeheartedly pursued a strong case for the de-amalgamation and am disappointed at the wishy washy online survey which I believe is biased against the de-amalgamation. I have noticed a decrease in quality of service, loss of knowledge and experience in council officers/staff (because of mass redundancies due to merger), less opportunity to engage in local government, and do not feel I can be adequately represented by councillors that now have enormous wards (relative to the former Marrickville LGA wards) and may not even be residents of their ward. I believe local government is an essential element of our democracy, but it must be genuinely local and representative, and IWC fails in this regard. So, as my personal submission in support of amalgamation, I submit the following points:

1. I want easy access to council meetings in my local area.

2. I have a voice and I am listened to and valued with a smaller council.

3. I want strong local leadership from a council which is truly local.

4. As a local I want to feel connected to my local council.

5. I want my Councillors to be my neighbours and to truly understand and care about issues in my local area.

6. I want to see our heritage Council Chambers and community buildings in use again for council and resident initiated committee meetings.

7. I am not happy with the Inner West Council. Since it was formed it has run deficit budgets. The three former councils were financially sound and, for example, Leichhardt Council had a budget surplus for the 10 years previous to the amalgamation.

8. I want the better and faster responsiveness from council staff who know my local area well and genuinely care about it. This has been lost since the forced amalgamation.

9. I want council staff and Councillors with excellent local knowledge.

10. The Inner West Council is not an effective advocate on important local issues.

11. It is too big, staff are too stretched and most of the Councillors are not local.

12. The three former Councils had strong and effective advocates for their local

communities.

13. I am better represented in a smaller council with fewer residents per Councillor and Councillors who all live locally.

14. I know services are not at the level they were with the previous councils. I want a return to the service levels we had then.

15. The Inner West Council functions like a large corporation: the unelected council officers have huge powers and are not subject to resident scrutiny.

16. It is a precious and important part of our community's well being to live in a genuine local democracy.

17. The former Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield Councils were as close as it gets to being genuine local democracies: residents spoke at council meetings and then bore witnesses as the issues were debated. They participated in Committees, forums and public meetings. All this has been lost with the Inner West Council.

18. The process undertaken to develop the de-amalgamation business case by IWC is fatally flawed. It failed to undertake the community consultation that was required as per NSW Treasury guidelines before the case to de-amalgamate was developed.

19. The community consultation during the exhibition period of the current business case has also been deplorable. It is no more than blatant push-polling by a market research firm.

[redacted]

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

- want better attention to our local community.

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie
Subject: Deamalgamation Inner West
Date: Saturday, 30 July 2022 7:38:40 PM

You don't often get email from [redacted] Learn why this is important

Dear Mr Ritchie,

I would like to submit this short email as an expression of my wish to deamalgamate as we were promised previously especially as we were given no say in amalgamating in the first place.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

I have a voice and I am listened to with a smaller, local council.

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie
Subject: Submission on De-amalgamation
Date: Thursday, 28 July 2022 3:44:00 PM

You don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

Quinn Ritchie,

Attn: Inner West Council

I wish to make a submission on the de-amalgamation of Inner West Council. I support de-amalgamation to the former council areas of Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield for the following reasons:

1. I want easy access to council meetings in my local area.

2. I have a voice and I am listened to and valued with a smaller council.

3. I want strong local leadership from a council which is truly local.

4. As a local I want to feel connected to my local council.

5. I want my Councillors to be my neighbours and to truly understand and care about issues in my local area.

6. I want to see our heritage Council Chambers and community buildings in use again for council and resident initiated committee meetings.

7. I am not happy with the Inner West Council. Since it was formed it has run deficit budgets. The three former councils were financially sound and, for example, Leichhardt Council had a budget surplus for the 10 years previous to the amalgamation.

8. I want the better and faster responsiveness from council staff who know my local area well and genuinely care about it. This has been lost since the forced amalgamation.

9. I want council staff and Councillors with excellent local knowledge.

10. The Inner West Council is not an effective advocate on important local issues.

11. It is too big, staff are too stretched and most of the Councillors are not local.

12. The three former Councils had strong and effective advocates for their local communities.

13. I am better represented in a smaller council with fewer residents per Councillor and Councillors who all live locally.

14. I know services are not at the level they were with the previous councils. I want a return to the service levels we had then.

15. The Inner West Council functions like a large corporation: the unelected council

officers have huge powers and are not subject to resident scrutiny.

16. It is a precious and important part of our community's well being to live in a genuine local democracy.

17. The former Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield Councils were as close as it gets to being genuine local democracies: residents spoke at council meetings and then bore witnesses as the issues were debated. They participated in Committees, forums and public meetings. All this has been lost with the Inner West Council.

18. The process undertaken to develop the de-amalgamation business case by IWC is fatally flawed. It failed to undertake the community consultation that was required as per NSW Treasury guidelines before the case to de-amalgamate was developed.

19. The community consultation during the exhibition period of the current business case has also been deplorable. It is no more than blatant push-polling by a market research firm.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie
Subject: Submission on De-amalgamation
Date: Thursday, 28 July 2022 9:58:18 PM

You don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

Quinn Ritchie,

Attn: Inner West Council

I wish to make a submission on the de-amalgamation of Inner West Council. I support de-amalgamation to the former council areas of Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield for the following reasons:

1. I have a voice and I am listened to and valued with a smaller council.

2: I want strong local leadership from a council which is truly local.

3: I am not happy with the Inner West Council. Since it was formed it has run deficit budgets. The three former councils were financially sound and, for example, Leichhardt Council had a budget surplus for the 10 years previous to the amalgamation.

4: I want the better and faster responsiveness from council staff who know my local area well and genuinely care about it. This has been lost since the forced

5:The community consultation during the exhibition period of the current business case has also been deplorable. It is no more than blatant push-polling by a market research firm.

[redacted]

This is my submission to the De-amalgamation Business Case.

I first want to say that the development and the public consultation of the business case are a failure. The business case was developed without first consulting with the community and Councillors and it was written using questionable data and methodology. It also missed the critical point: that electorate has already voted overwhelmingly to proceed with the de-amalgamation. The business case should not have been written with the purpose to dissuade residents from continuing to support the de-amalgamation and the survey should not have been a manipulative push poll deliberately designed again to try and persuade residents to change their minds and say they no longer want the de-amalgamation to proceed. What we should have seen with the business case is a roadmap outlining the ways for the Inner West Council to successfully undertake the de-amalgamation. We should have seen a document that identified the risks and provided ways to mitigate those risks to enable the de-amalgamation to proceed. We should also have seen a document which provided, in detail, the numerous reasons why the de-amalgamation should proceed and the advantages this will bring to the residents. Instead what we got was a highly biased business case which started from the premise that the de-amalgamation should not succeed. This business case did not ask what was wrong with IWC and why so many residents felt so strongly that the IWC had failed them that they wanted to get rid of it. Instead it started from the premise that 62.5% of the population are wrong. That 62.5% of the population don't know what they are talking about and in fact the IWC is doing a great job even if a significant majority of residents voted to get rid of it.

If it wasn't bad enough to have a deliberately biased and inaccurate business case which does the opposite of what it is required to do, this is compounded with an embarrassingly bad consultation process. It was extraordinary that the only public forum was a one hour online information session on Teams. The council had run an in person public meeting at Balmain Town Hall one week prior which every resident had received a letter in their letterbox inviting them to attend but it seems discussing plans to renovate the town hall are important enough for an in person public meeting while the decision to de-amalgamate the council is only worth an online information meeting and of course no letter in the letterbox inviting residents to attend the online meeting. Further this online meeting did not seek the opinions of residents on the de-amalgamation proposal – it was structured as a Q&A session only. In fact there have been no opportunities for residents to be consulted and provide feedback in person. The only way residents were told they could provide feedback was to participate in a survey. However, turns out that this survey was push polling at its worst.

At the heart of the survey are three different scenarios regarding rates and service levels.

The survey seeks to imply that the service levels were worse under the individual councils than under the amalgamated council and that rates will increase with the de-amalgamation. It fails to acknowledge the rates increases which have occurred under the amalgamated council and that they are scheduled to continue to increase under IWC, instead the entire focus is on hypothetical rates increases and service level drops with the de-amalgamation. After asking the survey participants to choose scenario a,b or c. The participant is then asked if having participated in the survey up to this point in time they have now changed their mind and decided they don't want the de-amalgamation to proceed. This is a very clear example of push polling – using the survey not as a neutral mechanism to collect people's opinions, but instead using the survey to persuade to a particular point of view. In this case the survey is being used to persuade people to change their minds and decide not to support the de-amalgamation.

I note as well that the survey is anonymous so the assumption should be made that participants may not be local residents.

Having realised that the survey was not neutral I contacted the General Manager and asked how I could make a submission instead of doing the survey. I also asked if an email address for submissions could be added to the website for others, like me, who want to do their own submission. I was provided with an email address a couple of days ago hence I am able to write this submission. No email address for submissions, nor an invitation to make submissions has been added to the website. I don't think you can argue that you are doing unbiased consultation if you don't provide people the option of being able to make their own independent submission. I therefore see both the business case and the consultations as failing in their purpose. In my opinion we need a new business case which is properly consulted upfront with the community and genuine two way consultation – in person as well as online which is not reduced to an online information session and a push polling survey.

I provide below some of the reasons I want IWC de-amalgamated. Please ensure these reasons are all incorporated in the final case council puts to the state government:

I want easy access to council meetings in my local area.

I have a voice and I am listened to and valued with a smaller council.

I want strong local leadership from a council which is truly local.

As a local I want to feel connected to my local council.

I want my Councillors to be my neighbours and to truly understand and care about issues in my local area.

I want to see our heritage Leichhardt Council Chambers in use again for council meetings.

I am not happy with the Inner West Council. Since it was formed it has run deficit budgets. Leichhardt Council had a budget surplus for the 10 years previous to the amalgamation.

I want the better and faster responsiveness from council staff who know my local area well and genuinely care about it. I don't get this with the Inner West Council staff.

I want council staff and Councillors with excellent local knowledge.

The Inner West Council is not an effective advocate on important local issues. It is too big, staff are too stretched and most of the Councillors are not local. Leichhardt Council was strong and effective advocate for its local community.

I am better represented in a smaller council with fewer residents per Councillor and Councillors who all live locally.

I know services are not at the level they were at with Leichhardt Council. I want a return to the service levels we had with Leichhardt Council

Leichhardt Council gave me a sense of place. Leichhardt Council was established in 1871. Leichhardt Council gave the local area identity, history, and pride. The Inner West Council is just a large corporation.

Leichhardt Council was as close as it gets to being a genuine local democracy. Residents came to council meetings; spoke on issues and then bore witnesses as issues were debated. They participated in Committees, forums and public meetings. All this has been lost with the Inner West Council. It is a precious and important part of our community's well-being to live in a genuine local democracy.

I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie; Inner West Council
Cc: yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com
Subject: Submission on de-amalgamation of the IWC
Date: Sunday, 31 July 2022 6:16:33 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [redacted] Learn why this is important

To Whom It May Concern,

I have just written to all the IWC Councillors submitting my concern about the micromex survey and its misleading questions. I am now writing with my formal submission on the de-amalgamation process.

My main reason for voting YES in last December's poll was because I am concerned at the loss of local representation after Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville councils were forcefully merged into the IWC. We have less councillors for each area and a mayor who does not even live in the ward he represents. Before we were much more likely to have contact with our elected representatives but now there are far less of them spread over a far greater area.

I live in Lilyfield and meetings are held outside my local area that make them far harder to attend. And meetings can seemingly be called arbitrarily and at a ridiculous hour as was the case with the Extraordinary Meeting held on May 10th at 10:30 PM!! How many residents could get there at short notice and at that late hour to address community concerns about the way the demerger proposal is being developed? And then those that could witnessed a meeting that lasted just 20 minutes and where all Labor councillors voted as a block against all the motions! This Extraordinary Meeting smacks of complete contempt for inner west residents and an absolute disregard for the wishes of 62.5% of people who voted YES to de-amalgamation.

The IWC has become a very undemocratic local council and the reason so many residents voted for de-amalgamation is because they are unhappy at the way it is run like a big corporation. The three former Councils genuinely acted as local democracies where residents could speak up at meetings held in their own council area, and where they could listen to the issues being debated. There were so many opportunities for residents to participate in forums and public meetings that have all fallen by the wayside since the creation of the IWC. It is just too unwieldy a beast and impossible to cover all the local issues at one monthly meeting that the residents of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville want to hear discussed. These three former Councils were made up of very effective advocates for their local communities.

It is also in the community's interest to see a return to the faster and better responsiveness from council staff who know the local area well and who genuinely care about it. Since we were forced into the mega structure that's the IWC, all of this has been lost.

I ask that a genuine and strong business case for de-amalgamation be developed through community consultation — and not by relying on the results of a flawed survey — to give the best chance for the process to be approved. We already know that the majority of residents voted overwhelmingly for a demerger — more voting for de-amalgamation than they voted in the election of councillors — and therefore the wishes of residents should be respected. The NSW State Government is clear that the costs of the de-merger will be borne by the government so it is in our interest to put forward the best business plan possible so we can succeed in becoming three separate councils again and putting local representation back into our communities.

Yours Sincerely

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie
Subject: Fwd: Demalgamation
Date: Sunday, 31 July 2022 3:05:52 PM

You don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

Hi, I did the accompanying submission without designating it as a draft, hence there are some errors, as in 8=7 which should read 8-7 and teams were sent from the three councils. The public liability person pointed to a schedule of clean ups. They were not being adhered to in 2018. I also reference a 2015 email I sent to Mayor Byrne where I dismissed myself as a de facto council employee, because on every green bin day I cleaned out the stormwater drain behind No 70 Foucart St from 2008 on.

Please be aware that I want understood that local government means attention to local issues. Currently I feel disenfranchised and expect better representation than I currently experience. For example a neighbour and I approached a local, new dad who obviously had no knowledge of the impacts of unfiltered exhaust stacks on young children and advised him where he could source information. We also pointed out what is acceptable as international best practice. Experience tells me you should use every avenue available to prosecute your case.

The plebiscite of 4/12/22 should be binding and rather than some councillors offering lukewarm support, we, the residents, deserve to have our voices listened to. (Note federal plebiscite on Gay Marriage) The spectre of financial penalty should not be held over people. State wide amalgamations are under question. Anyone can set up a set of arguments to influence an outcome. Perhaps "our" council should take more notice of the PM's approach to an Aboriginal Voice to Parliament. I ask, "if not now, when? "
Sincerely
[redacted]
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: [redacted]
Date: 30 July 2022 at 12:42:29 pm AEST
To: [redacted]
Subject: Demalgamation

In spite of an 8=7 majority on the IWC, it is incumbent upon the Labor majority to respond positively to the wishes of the 62.5% of people who voted for demerger at the Council Election of 4/12/2021. That vote demonstrates that in spite of the Labor Candidates not supporting demerger, that we live in a democracy and that the populace has spoken.

It appears as if across NSW amalgamated councils have not delivered the benefits parlayed when the state government was promoting that concept.

Reasons Specific to Me

Failure to respond in a timely manner to issues raised

(i) Neglect in maintaining the local area adequately

eg Continuing failure to maintain roads to an acceptable standard

eg Failure to address sink holes (I now call the after hours number, as at least they respond. Have recommended that course of action to another resident who was cross about lack of council response.)

eg An examination of past council notes(Leichhardt Council) demonstrates an awareness of stormwater issues, yet remedies that might have benefitted me have not occurred(I do know that the State Government shares this cost. I am aware of budgeting for this matter in IWC documentation, but it seems inadequate.

eg It took a local resident to speed dial the mayor and for teams to be from the three councils to clean Foucart Lane on 30/11/ 2018. That occurred after my house was inundated by stormwater on 28/11/ 2018. Julio (IWC) was present at my property on 30/11/2018 and we were standing in theFoucart Lane when this occurred

eg The flooding of 28/11/2018 was an isolated event and not part of a continuous rain event.

eg There had been previous flood events, but at that time those matters did not have to be noted on the Contract, (2007- 8) hence I was unaware of this

eg I attended council on three separate occasions to report Overland Flow incursions.

eg Submitted a Claim form to Council at the end of 2020, about costs not
covered after I successfully took my Insurer, NRMA to AFCA. The IWC referred the matter to a public liability firm. Initially that firm told me my claim was invalid. I asked for
the evidence used to substantiate that conclusion. Since that time case managers have changed and I am still out of pocket. The irony? AFCA has limitation/ regulations governing its response. Suffice to say AFCA found in my favour. I borrowed money to pay eg the extra $5000 to a solicitor and was very restrained in what I asked for. Funds had to be sourced from my mortgage redraw, for expense of living at others etc.

Regular Services

Eg Garbage Collection. Foucart Lane collection may be missed bins are never replaced in their original position.

eg Missed collections…. Accused of not putting out bins. Really?

Failure to Address Impact of WCX on Local Residents and Businesses.

eg Why were we only surveyed inJune, 2o21, when this was mentioned to
Mayor Byrne before the council was amalgamated.

eg Failure to address the continuous noise and dust pollution we are experiencing

eg Potential clients have to park too far away from the business they intend to support, so opt out or, as in one situation, force that owner to work Saturdays

Local Traffic Committee

Needs to publish an Agenda well before each scheduled meeting.

Needs to ensure all resident are informed of changed conditions.
Needs to ensure councillors representing each ward are aware of decisions which might impact their constituents.
Needs to be transparent and ensure all councillors and locals receive the same information.

iWC needs to constitute committees that have local resident representation.

Bike Safety.
With two non voting rights members potentially attending the Local Traffic Committee does the LTC envisage that there will be some effort made to consider rider and pedestrian safety? I worry every time I see bike riders breaching give way or stop signs, failing to signal and even going down one way streets against the traffic flow. There are a number of people delivering by bike locally. What advice can IWC provide to the LTC about this matter?

Answer the Phone.
My time is Valuable. If the problem is a staff shortage, prioritise the needs of residents and make savings elsewhere.

Surely others will cover more generic concerns. My overwhelming feeling is one of disappointment and of lowered expectations. I want a return to where I know a legitimate issue will receive appropriate action

I think the office staff at Leichhardt make a real effort to respond to residents' concerns. Individual staff members can be approachable and helpful. Know that the IWC has to establish priorities. Let us shelve some big ticket items and do the " small things " well.

I do not, nor never have, belonged to any political party. It is discouraging to see the strong divide in council between Labor and the rest of the council. In these situations Labor always votes as a block. My belief is that this is not helpful in local decision making.

Therefore to me Leichhardt should be a stand alone council where accountability is practised. council should represent us. I comprehend times are difficult, but we are missing part of the social harmony that exists when people respect each
<image0.jpeg>

Sincerely

[redacted]

Sent from my iPad

To the Inner West Council:

29th July 2022

This is my submission to the De-amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]
I Live at: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are as follows:

An overwhelming majority of residents campaigned passionately for my council, Leichhardt Council to be a 'Stand Alone Council' to keep our council local - sadly our voices were not valued and politics stole Leichhardt Council from us.

It is now time to set the record straight by de-amalgamating from the mega Inner West Council and returning Leichhardt Council back to our community.

I want our heritage Leichhardt Council Chambers in use again for council meetings.

Prior to Leichardt Council, being forcefully and illegally taken away from my community I had easy access to open council meetings, in my local area.

I want a smaller council were I am valued and listened to.

I want a local council where my Councillors are my neighbours who understand and care about local issues.

I am not at all happy with the administration and services with the Inner West Council. It has run deficit budgets since its formation. Leichhardt Council was financially sound; it had a budget surplus for the decade prior to the amalgamation.

I want council staff and Councillors with outstanding local knowledge.

I want faster and better responses from council staff that have the expert knowledge of my local area and truly care about it. I don't receive this with the Inner West Council staff.

The Inner West Council is too big and not an effective advocate on important local issues. Staffing resources are stretched and most Councillors are not local. I am better represented in a smaller council with fewer residents per Councillors and Councillors who live locally.

I know that services are not at the level they were at with Leichhardt Council. I want a return to the service levels we had with Leichhardt Council.

Leichhardt Council was established in 1871. It gave the local area identity, history and pride.
The Inner West Council is just a large corporation.

Leichhardt Council was as close as it gets to being a genuine local democracy. Residents came to council meetings – spoke on issues and then bore witness as issues were debated. They participated in Committees, forums and public meetings. All of this has been lost with the mega Inner West Council

It is a precious and vital part of our community's well being to live in a genuine local democracy.

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed:

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

TOO BIG AND DOES NOT REPRESENT THE VIEWS AND NEEDS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie
Subject: Submission on De-amalgamation
Date: Saturday, 30 July 2022 8:29:49 AM

Quinn Ritchie,

Attn: Inner West Council

I wish to make a submission on the de-amalgamation of Inner West Council. I support de-amalgamation to the former council areas of Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield for the following reasons:

1. I want easy access to council meetings in my local area.

2. I have a voice and I am listened to and valued with a smaller council. Currently the council is too large to truly represent local voices.

3. I want strong local leadership from a council which is truly local. Who know and care about my neighbourhood.

4. As a local I want to feel connected to my local council.

5. I want my Councillors to be my neighbours and to truly understand and care about issues in my local area.

6. I want to see our heritage Council Chambers and community buildings in use again for council and resident initiated committee meetings.

7. I am not happy with the Inner West Council. Since it was formed it has run deficit budgets. The three former councils were financially sound and, for example, Leichhardt Council had a budget surplus for the 10 years previous to the amalgamation. This is particularly frustrating given that improved efficiency & costs were reasons given for the forced amalgamation.

8. I want the better and faster responsiveness from council staff who know my local area well and genuinely care about it. This has been lost since the forced amalgamation.

9. I want council staff and Councillors with excellent local knowledge.

10. The Inner West Council is not an effective advocate on important local issues.

11. It is too big, staff are too stretched and most of the Councillors are not local. In addition, I am paying increased rates for apparent improvements made in areas I never visit.

12. The three former Councils had strong and effective advocates for their local communities.

13. I am better represented in a smaller council with fewer residents per Councillor and Councillors who all live locally.

14. I know services are not at the level they were with the previous councils. I want a return to the service levels we had then. The Marrickville council provided excellent services prior the forced amalgamation.

15. The Inner West Council functions like a large corporation: the unelected council officers have huge powers and are not subject to resident scrutiny. The current mayor appears to be more focused on political power than any genuine concern for the local community.

16. It is a precious and important part of our community's well being to live in a genuine local democracy.

17. The former Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield Councils were as close as it gets to being genuine local democracies: residents spoke at council meetings and then bore witnesses as the issues were debated. They participated in Committees, forums and public meetings. All this has been lost with the Inner West Council.

18. The process undertaken to develop the de-amalgamation business case by IWC is fatally flawed. It failed to undertake the community consultation that was required as per NSW Treasury guidelines before the case to de-amalgamate was developed. I have concerns that the so called business case was not independent and was presented in such a way that leaned more favourably towards keeping the council as is.

19. The community consultation during the exhibition period of the current business case has also been deplorable. It is no more than blatant push-polling by a market research firm.

It is very apparent, as highlighted in the recent poll at our last local election, that the majority of people in the IWC want to return to our smaller, more local council structures before the forced amalgamation took place. The fact that this current council continues to delay and set up obstacles to avoid fulfilling the voice of the people, goes to the heart issue. They simply are not representing us.

Kind regards[redacted]

[redacted]

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

Not enough local representation. Therefore neglect. I feel better represented by a local Council.

Parks

Car parks

Streets

Roads

Car park revenue is not conducive to happy living - fools like revenue is not used for local initiatives.

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie
Subject: De-amalgamation
Date: Sunday, 31 July 2022 11:56:23 PM

[You don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important at https://aka ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification]

Dear sir/madam
Apologies for this late email, I hadn't realised the submissions close today. I hope you can include my response in the subissions supporting the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council.

In relation to the options proposed in the Inner West Council Draft De-Amalgamation Business Case, it was very disappointing that the 3rd option, of de-amalgamating but with shared services across the 3 re-formed councils, was not offered. The Draft De-Amalgamation Business Case indicated there was 'little demonstrated benefit for NSW local government'. That may be the opinion of the Consultants employed to consider the de-amalgamation case, but 'little' benefit is better than none! That option should have been included in the business case. It's the option I would support. To nominate one of options proposed in the Draft wouldn't reflect accurately my preferences.I would support de-amalgamation with whichever of options A & B was acceptable to the State government. The 3 de-established councils could then collectively lobby the state government to provide further funding.

I also read some information that suggested that the consultants preparing the business case had previously prepared the case against the demerger before the poll last year. I'm not sure if this is the case, but it does make me one lack confidence in the process.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission,regards,
[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie
Subject: Submission on De-amalgamation
Date: Thursday, 28 July 2022 5:16:27 PM

You don't often get email from [redacted] Learn why this is important

Quinn Ritchie,

Attn: Inner West Council

I wish to make a submission on the de-amalgamation of Inner West Council. I support de-amalgamation to the former council areas of Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield for the following reasons:

I am not happy with the mega Inner West Council. Since it was formed it has run deficit budgets. The three former councils were financially sound and Leichhardt Council had a BUDGET SURPLUS for the 10 years previous to the amalgamation.

Services are not at the level they were with the previous councils. I want a return to the service levels we had then.

The three former Councils had strong and effective advocates for their local communities.

I am better represented in a smaller council with fewer residents per Councillor and Councillors who all live locally.

The former Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield Councils were as close as it gets to being genuine local democracies: residents spoke at council meetings. They participated in Committees, forums and public meetings. All this has been lost with the creation of the Inner West Council.

The process undertaken to develop the de-amalgamation business case by IWC is biased and flawed. It failed to undertake the community consultation that was required as per NSW Treasury guidelines before the case to de-amalgamate was developed.

The community consultation during the exhibition period of the current business case has also been deplorable.

The formation of the Inner West Council at the behest of former NSW Premier Baird has been an experiment which has failed dismally which is why 63% of residents who voted in council elections opted for de-amalgamation.

[redacted]

De-amalgamation Business Case

[redacted]

Thu 28/07/2022 09:32

To: Inner West Council <council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>;Quinn Ritchie <quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com <yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com> [redacted]

The Business case does not do justice to the majority of people who actively sought for de-amalgamation.

There are minimal options given and some options ruled out without a justification or evidence as to why they are not taken forward

Why was the idea of a common service across the 3 de- amalgamated councils ruled out as not providing any savings. Did this statement come from doing an EOI from potential providers or just a gut feel. The residents are not stupid and we shouldn't be treated with such contempt, provide the evidence of work done to make these claims.

The 63% who want de-amalgamation want it for this very reason. This large IWC thinks it doesn't need to explain its actions, a smaller council more in tune with its Community would provide what Council's should - a voice for their constituents.

A Business Case written like this current one comes from a the view of not supporting De-amalgamation. There is very poor analysis and written case.

I don't support submitting such a pair effort or paying for it. Of course the end result could reflect the written score given.

Yours Sincerely

[redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: Tue, 14 Jun 2022 15:24:33 +1000
To: "Mayor, Darcy Byrne" <darcy.byrne@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>;"Clr Kobi Shetty" <kobi.shetty@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>;"Clr John Stamolis" <john.stamolis@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>;"Clr Liz Atkins" <liz.atkins@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>;"Clr Pauline Lockie" <pauline.lockie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>;"Clr Chloe Smith" <chloe.smith@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>;"Deputy Mayor, Jessica D'Arienzo" <jessica.darienzo@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>;"Clr Mark Drury" <mark.drury@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>;"Clr Dylan Griffiths" <dylan.griffiths@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>;"Clr Marghanita Da Cruz" <marghanita.da.cruz@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>;"Clr Philippa Scott" <philippa.scott@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>;"Clr Tim Stephens" <tim.stephens@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>;"Clr Mat Howard" <mat.howard@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>;"Clr Justine Langford" <justine.langford@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>;"Clr Zoi Tsardoulias" <zoi.tsardoulias@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: "Inner West Council" <council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: draft business case - deamalgamation

dear clrs

see the minutes of 8feb22 point 4 copied below which contains an incorporated amendment into the mayoral minute saying that the draft business case must have community input into the preparation of a business case which has been denied by the gm and by labor bloc votes on multiple occassions which is odd since the labor mayor incorporated the amendment
-the draft has already been completed prior to community input thus making engagement of the community post preparation moot as previous iwc inclusion of community input from surveys into documents is very low and mostly non existent
-iwc surveys in their current form could be considered 'push polls'
-even if the planned engagement were to be conducted at this point it is clear that just edits (if accepted) to a document is not the same as being involved in the preparation of a document which is implied in the spirit of the amended mayoral minute
-participation in preparation is not the same as commenting after the fact
-additionally data in the 2015 morrison and low report shows the report was mostly inaccurate in estimating outcomes of amalgamation
-2 reports by morrison and low have been found to be less than objective hence they should not be engaged again
-the morrison and low report must be deemed not fit for purpose

i have asked the gm to account for his denial of community participation in the preparation of the business case in opposition to the council resolution but have not had a reply to date

the document you have before you to go on exhibition is not the complete draft business case
-not only does it have no community input it is only the morrison & low report to council and does not include council's own submission information
-since the resolution has not been rescinded and there is no complete draft as yet
-it is premature to exhibit an incomplete document

Document Set ID: 36453479
Version: 1, Version Date: 15/06/2022

in the interests of serving our community i ask you to put politics aside and to vote against it

[redacted]
14jun22

At the 8 February Ordinary Council Meeting, Council considered a Mayoral minute **refer Attachment 1,** 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;*

534

INNER WEST

Council Meeting 14 June 2022

and

4. *Involve the community in the preparation of the business case.*

Document Set ID: 36453479
Version: 1, Version Date: 15/06/2022

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie
Subject: Submission on De-amalgamation
Date: Saturday, 30 July 2022 2:20:15 PM

Quinn Ritchie,

Attn: Inner West Council
I wish to make a submission on the de-amalgamation of Inner West Council. I strongly support de-amalgamation to the former council areas of Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield for the following reasons:

Local Government is no longer " local." There is no easy access to council meetings held in Ashfield which is not very accessible from Balmain. Also Councillors are mostly not from one's local area and therefore can't truly represent the residents with true local knowledge. With the smaller councils you felt like your had voice would be heard.
I believe our heritage Council Chambers should be used again rather than falling into disrepair or sold off. They would be used for council and resident-initiated committee meetings.
The 3 former Councils were financially sound and in fact Leichhardt council had a budget surplus for the 10 years prior to amalgamation. They also had strong and effective advocates for tir local communities.
I am not happy with the Inner West Council where amalgamation was forced on us. Since it was formed it has run deficit budgets. The three former councils were financially sound and, for example, Leichhardt Council had a budget surplus for the 10 years previous to the amalgamation.
I also believe that services have declined and are not at the same level they were previously.
I have no confidence in the process undertaken to develop the de-amalgamation business case by IWC which is flawed. It failed to undertake the community consultation that was required as per NSW Treasury guidelines before the case to de-amalgamate was developed
The community consultation during the exhibition period of the current business case has also been shameful. It is no more than blatant push-polling by a market research firm.

62.5% for deamalgation. The residents have spoken!

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

To the Inner West Council:

Send to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and can you cc yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com

This is my submission to the De-Amalgamate Inner West Council Consultation:

My name is: [redacted]

My address is: [redacted]

My email/phone number is: [redacted]

I strongly support the de-amalgamation of the Inner West Council and a return to Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt Councils.

My reasons are the following:

The Inner West Council is way too huge and we need the smaller Leichhardt council to be re-established.

These are just some of the reasons I support the de-amalgamation proceeding.

Signed: [redacted]

Submission re Demerger of Inner West Council (IWC)

with focus on Leichhardt Council (LC)

IWC has to provide the NSW Government with a business case outlining the benefits and reasons why a demerger should take place. The referendum at the local Government election in 2021 shows the dissatisfaction that residents have with IWC as they voted in the majority to split back into the previous 3 Councils, Ashfield, Marrickville and Leichhardt.

IWC commissioned a report from Morrison Low who did not consult the residents in the process. The previous LC consulted the community, presented the facts and asked them what they wanted. They did not want a merger; their choice was to retain a stand-alone Council. In a random phone survey in early 2015, 55% of local residents opted to retain LC as did nearly 1,400 responding to a voluntary online version of the same survey. 72% of residents were clear in wishing to retain a stand-alone Council. They did not want to lose their individual voices on local issues. They were happy with LC's performance as it rated well in all areas of the "Fit for the Future" criteria except for the LGA size. It was also one of the most financially sound and environmentally sustainable Councils in NSW. The residents did not want to lose their individual voices on local issues. As well smaller Councils provide better "Local" services.

The Morrison Low report is full of "maybe" and "might be" and risks for the ratepayer. It predicts the cost will be a burden for the ratepayers without mention of the Local Government Act that was changed in 2021 to state that the NSW Government must pay for the costs of demerger. It suggests loss of staff without any explanation of why this will occur. Surely if it takes the current amount of staff to administer around 200,000 residents when divided back into 3 Councils the overall number of residents will not change therefore why should the staff numbers? It also mentions rate rises which could be likely in the future with the rapid rise in the inflation rate but this was not a factor when the report was written. There will be the same revenue stream that IWC now has when demerged, just divided back into 3 Councils according to their population. Therefore Option 3 would be the best scenario. This would allow LC to share resources and services across other Local Councils and regionally.

The merger of the Councils impacted on the residents and local business economy. It also meant more travel time for IWC staff across the LGA. The local services were also affected because of this. Many of LC staff and Councillors who had valuable local knowledge, oganisational skills and a passion for the community were "lost" during the amalgamation process.

At the time of amalgamation LC had a high community engagement with local interest/action groups which had a participation rate of 40% compared to the national average of 18.5%. There was extensive use of this network by LC via Council Committees, Taskforces, Workshops, Community Consultations, Community Events, Precincts, Community Facility Committees and so on. This has been drastically reduced with the advent of IWC: less committees, hardly any community consultation or workshops and

because of the geography and lack of public transport less access available to attend community events. With the large IWC Local Government Area (LGA) residents have limited access to offices, meeting rooms, Council buildings and events etc. unless able to access a car.

Residents of LC were welcome to attend any committee without applying through an Expression of Interest Process. There was an Open Council Policy which ensured all residents could attend and have their say at Council Meetings. Business Papers and Agendas were provided to the public and media 7 days prior to meetings as were those of the Committees, Taskforces, Precincts etc. IWC does not provide Business Papers for Advisory Committees or Working Groups so members are expected to give input on issues without background support. Residents of LC had a place identity, the peninsula character and a strong attachment to the LGA which was defined by its boundaries: Sydney Harbour, Hawthorne Canal, Parramatta Road and Johnston Creek. At least two thirds of these boundaries are on water. The former LC LGA is a close knit community. Previous Councillors, staff and residents were passionate about their lifestyle, their amenity and their local community. Residents still feel this way about the previous LGA, not about IWC LGA.

Whereas LC had one Councillor for every 5,000 residents, IWC Councillors have to represent between 13,000 and 14,000 residents in their ward. There is not the opportunity for residents to speak to their Ward Councillor as they used to: in the street, at the Shopping Centre, on the mainstreets, at recreation, at Council events, in restaurants, at bus/tram stops etc., all in the local area. Councillors can no longer attend the majority of Council Events, meetings, Committees etc. because of distance and transport availability. In fact, Parramatta Road is a barrier for many Councillors.

The local in ”Local” Government has disappeared. There is no longer an effective voice for the residents of the previous Council areas with less representation per capita and loss of local values, accountability and priorities. Smaller Councils better represent local communities. Service levels that were available for and expected by LC residents have not been retained. Streets, footpaths, verges, weed removal, laneways, waterways, parks etc. are not regularly maintained. The whole area needs some tender loving care.

During the amalgamation process the NSW Government treated the 3 former Councils (Leichhardt, Ashfield and Marrickville), their staff and residents with contempt. IWC is now doing the same to its residents. 62.5% of IWC residents voted YES for de-amalgamation but this is not being supported by the majority in Council. Staff dissatisfaction is cited as a result of a survey that was conducted but this was not a consideration during the amalgamation process. What about resident dissatisfaction with IWC?

The referendum shows the express wishes of the residents as did the polls taken prior to the amalgamation process. Is IWC going to ignore this evidence the same as the NSW Government did in 2016?

THE RESIDENTS OF THE IWC HAVE SPOKEN! BRING BACK OUR LOCAL COUNCILS: LEICHHARDT, ASHFIELD AND MARRICKVILLE!

Deamalgamation

[redacted]

Thu 28/07/2022 10:30

To: Quinn Ritchie <quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>
Cc: Inner West Council <council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au>

I am totally for deamalgamation.
The area covered by innerwest council is far too large and diverse.
We need a Council that is local to our area and one that can respond quickly and efficiently to its residents, which Innerwest Council does not.
The sooner deamalgamation takes place the better.

Yours sincerely
[redacted]

From: [redacted]
To: Quinn Ritchie
Subject: Council de amalgamation
Date: Sunday, 31 July 2022 9:52:01 PM

You don't often get email from [redacted]. Learn why this is important

Dear Mr Ritchie,
I am writing to ask you to demerge the current council amalgamation between Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield Councils.
I have been living in the Balmain/Rozelle area since 1973.
The former Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield Councils were as close as it gets to being genuine local democracies: residents spoke at council meetings and then bore witnesses as the issues were debated. They participated in Committees, forums and public meetings. All this has been lost with the Inner West Council.

I want easy access to council meetings in my local area and I want to ensure I have a voice and I am listened to and valued with a smaller council.I want strong local leadership from a council which is truly local.As a local I want to feel connected to my local council and my Councillors to be my neighbours and to truly understand and care about issues in my local area. I want to see our heritage Council Chambers and community buildings in use again for council and resident initiated committee meetings.

Balmain and Rozelle are unique areas and have a different heritage to Marrickville and Ashfield.

I would appreciate a response to my letter,

Kind regards

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

The ‘community engagement’ process being undertaken by the Labor-dominated Inner West Council (IWC) is designed to upset the result from the community poll last December.

The council website only allows us to do a push poll survey. The key purpose of the survey appears to change our minds about the forced amalgamation.

In some good news, however, IWC has agreed to accept direct submissions. So we are urging you to submit a submission, in your own words, directly to the IWC.

It can be 3 lines, a page, or more — you decide.

Please send it to quinn.ritchie@innerwest.nsw.gov.au, council@innerwest.nsw.gov.au and please cc us in as well at yesdeamalgamate@gmail.com.

The deadline is July 31 so please do it as soon as you can!

Below are some reasons to de-amalgamate that you may want to include in your submission; we are sure you can think of many more:

1. I want easy access to council meetings in my local area.

2. I have a voice and I am listened to and valued with a smaller council.

3. I want strong local leadership from a council which is truly local.

4. As a local I want to feel connected to my local council.

5. I want my Councillors to be my neighbours and to truly understand and care about issues in my local area.

6. I want to see our heritage Council Chambers and community buildings in use again for council and resident initiated committee meetings.

7. I am not happy with the Inner West Council. Since it was formed it has run deficit budgets. The three former councils were financially sound and, for example, Leichhardt Council had a budget surplus for the 10 years previous to the amalgamation.

8. I want the better and faster responsiveness from council staff who know my local area well and genuinely care about it. This has been lost since the forced amalgamation.

9. I want council staff and Councillors with excellent local knowledge.

10. The Inner West Council is not an effective advocate on important local issues.

11. It is too big, staff are too stretched and most of the Councillors are not local.

12. The three former Councils had strong and effective advocates for their local communities.

13. I am better represented in a smaller council with fewer residents per Councillor and Councillors who all live locally.

14. I know services are not at the level they were with the previous councils. I want a return to the service levels we had then.

15. The Inner West Council functions like a large corporation: the unelected council officers have huge powers are not under subject to resident scrutiny.

16. It is a precious and important part of our community's well being to live in a genuine local democracy.

17. The former Leichhardt, Marrickville and Ashfield Councils were as close as it gets to being genuine local democracies: residents spoke at council meetings and then bore witnesses as the issues were debated. They participated in Committees, forums and public meetings. All this has been lost with the Inner West Council.

18. The process undertaken to develop the de-amalgamation business case by IWC is fatally flawed. It failed to undertake the community consultation that was required as per NSW Treasury guidelines before the case to de-amalgamate was developed.

19. The community consultation during the exhibition period of the current business case has also been deplorable. It is no more than blatant push-polling by a market research firm.

Add in any other observations you have.

We strongly recommend people make their own submission directly, but if you don't have time, please use our template here:
https://actionnetwork.org/letters/direct-submission-on-de-amalgamation/

Please spread the word, circulate this email and let's get as many submissions to council before the 31 July deadline!

Many thanks,

Residents for De-amalgamation

Don't forget to come along to the Keep Council Local protest outside NSW Parliament on **Tuesday August 9 at 1pm!**

XOMMENT ::

The possibility to run a digital "questionnaire" that seeks the WRONG outcome, is questioned by the De-merger advocate groupl

So is there benefits in having a smaller council and Councillors ?

The Inner West areas include different local areas, that may be better run by "Sub-committees

So thus keeps the overall accounting in place.

There is some issues that the Inner West GROUP of LOCAL GOVT has a problem of how to manage the improved Parramatta Road precinct with 2 councils or more (being a "precinct urban planning challenge" that is not easily, uncovered within a YES /NO vote to demerge ??

This then needs to investigate if the LGA has capable "Experts" ?

There is GOOD Social Projects at Addisson Road Centre that operate in Glebe/Annandale and Marrickville.

The over 60 % support for the demerger by residents, seems to support a BETTER FOLLOW-up study.

There may be benefits of a larger LGA

But the potential for BLAND "Corporate" could be the result?

The Inner West once had ship-building at Cockatoo Island etc, but now it may be a dwelling place for City BASED office or IT workers, and then there is the GROUP of “at-home but online” work force.

The Cockatoo Docklands is now a MUSEUM / Heritage Space.

THERE is a CASE for GREATER COMMUNAL SPACE for Community Gardens, and SAFE BIKE PATHS, especially if people are living in small dwellings.

Having viewed the Northern Beaches Council’s video’s of its planned infrastructure budget “it seems that digital office management can be in control of Large Budgets and “Not understand “key responsibility issues of Local Govt (or is it State Govt) ??

In Germany I was told by a Husband and Wife visiting from Germany (but the husband once lived in Eastern Suburbs of Sydney) that there is a GOOD PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM so many people do not drive cars in city areas. They have Local Trains and Regional Trains and Faster Trains and FAST TRAINS going long Distances.

So the idea of a FUTURE “WEST METRO” may be flawed?

The IWC’s web-site provides the following (which seems good, but it indicates that the level of investigation may be “significant” if the project is to DEMERGE , and so the Reasons to Demerge are beyond me.

3 tiers of complaint handling

Our 3 tiered approach aims to respond to complaints appropriately and efficiently subject to their seriousness.

Tier 1: Front-line complaints handling at the source of the service

Subject to seriousness, our aim is to resolve complaints at the front-line service level, by either one of our customer service officers or a staff member associated with delivery of the service.

Depending on the nature and seriousness of the complaint, tier 1 resolution may take place at any of the following levels:

1. Front-line customer service officer
2. Person responsible for providing the service
3. Immediate supervisor of the person providing the service
4. Manager of the function
5. Responsible Director
6. General Manager

A staff member may decide to escalate the complaint to a more senior officer within this hierarchy for review or assessment of the complaint at any point in time.

Tier 2: Internal review

Where a complaint is unable to be resolved or the customer remains unsatisfied with Council's response following tier 1, the customer may choose to refer the matter to Council's Internal Ombudsman for internal review.

Find out more about the Council's Internal Ombudsman service here.

Tier 3: External review

Where a person making a complaint is dissatisfied with the outcome of Council's review of their complaint, they may seek an external review of our decision by a relevant body such as the NSW Ombudsman or the Independent Commission Against Corruption.

Appendix M About Morrison Low

The cornerstone of our business is the public sector, we have grown over more than 20 years by understanding and supporting local government in Australia and New Zealand. With offices in Sydney, Auckland, and Wellington, we pride ourselves on understanding government and local government, particularly, and the challenges confronting it. Our team of experts have all worked in the sector, so we understand the issues councils face.

Morrison Low is a multidisciplined management consultancy that has the ability to draw on the experience of a range of experts from different professions to deliver a quality outcome to all projects. Critical to our success is bringing together the right project team with a depth of experience and variety of expertise.

We have been in the delivery of strategic, financial and asset services although we have undertaken projects in virtually every area councils are involved in.

Our values:

- **Our people.** Respect, integrity, initiative
- **Together.** Support, teamwork, relationships
- **Results.** Success, excellence, enduring.

For further information, see *https://www.morrisonlow.com/*.