

Council Amalgamations & De-Amalgamations

Queensland

Refer to <https://www.governmentnews.com.au/council-mergers-decrease-efficiencies-study/> where it is concluded that:

“The research, which analysed measures of technical efficiencies before and after council mergers, found that two years after the mergers, amalgamated councils reported a technical efficiency score “well below” the non-amalgamated councils.”

“Our evidence suggests that the predicted improvements to technical efficiency for Queensland amalgamated councils may have largely failed to come to pass,” according to the findings published in the *Australian Journal of Public Administration*.”

NSW

The NSW Government formed Inner West Council in 2016 by bringing together Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils. In December 2021, a non-binding poll was conducted in which the Inner West community voted to de-amalgamate the existing Council and return to the three former Councils. The result was carried with 62.5 per cent in favour, in a poll with 80.7% turnout.

Now, Inner West Council is preparing a de-amalgamation business case for the NSW Minister for Local Government, who is responsible for the final decision.

One of 19 NSW councils created in a round of forced amalgamations in 2016 has won the right to be demerged, with three others looking to follow.

NSW Minister for Local Government Wendy Tuckerman this week said the Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council would be demerged on the recommendation of the state’s Local Government Boundaries Commission.

A webinar to be held on Thursday, March 2, will look at putting the “local” back into local government as key speakers discuss the amalgamation of Gosford 2023 and Wyong Councils in 2016 and the possibilities of de-amalgamation.

The Sydney Morning Herald, May 2021:

Residents of two councils, Gundagai and Tumbarumba, have applied to the Boundaries Commission to demerge and have had their cases heard. Residents of five others, Bombala, Guyra, Pittwater, Inner West and Canterbury-Bankstown, are waiting in the wings to do so. An administrator was installed in Armidale Regional Council and one is running Central Coast Council now. Deficits in the merged system, including the councils of Canterbury-Bankstown, Georges River, Inner West, Armidale Regional, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Snowy Monaro and Hilltops, are significant.