

SUPPLEMENTARY BUSINESS PAPER 1

COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, 16 February, 2016

Distributed on 15 February 2016

Meeting commences at 6:30pm

**Council Chambers
Level 3, 2-14 Fisher Street
Petersham**

MEETING AGENDA – PRECIS SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

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

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Item No: C0216 Item 24

Subject: MAYORAL MINUTE: SUBMISSION TO DELEGATE - ACHIEVING
EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION

File Ref: 16/4717/16745.16

From Councillor Sam Iskandar, Mayor of Marrickville

MOTION:

THAT Council submit to the Delegate a preference for a new Council area to be divided into three (3) wards each comprising five (5) councillors.

Background

Council is considering on tonight's Business Paper its submission to the Delegate in response to the Minister for Local Government's proposal to merge Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville Councils.

Input from Councillors is particularly sought on the following:

- 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 are considered relevant in relation to the past and future patterns of elected representation for that area;
- the desirability (or otherwise) of dividing the resulting area or areas into wards; and
- the need to ensure that the opinions of each of the diverse communities of the resulting area or areas are effectively represented.

The draft submission correctly, in my view, recommends any new Council comprise the maximum number of Councillors allowed under the Local Government Act 1993 to replace the 36 Councillors currently representing the communities of Ashfield, Leichhardt and Marrickville. This will provide one (1) Councillor to every 12,399 residents.

Each of the current councils have previously recognized the benefits of dividing their council areas into wards. This enables residents to have access to representatives with first hand knowledge of local issues that may be peculiar to their part of the local government area. Councillors exist to represent all residents within the council area when taking strategic and other decisions affecting them. It is nevertheless helpful to the elected council to have the benefit of a more localized perspective when taking such decisions. Ward Councillors provide that localized perspective.

In the context of a merger of council areas a ward structure provides confidence to the broader community being represented that their unique characteristics and needs are fully understood.

Three (3) wards comprising five (5) Councillors would result in wards representing a population of almost 62,000 each. This would provide the greatest opportunity for the voices of the Ashfield community (44,498), Leichhardt community (58,136) and Marrickville community (83,356) to be properly heard.

ATTACHMENTS

Nil.