

INQUIRY INTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Discussion points – Inquiry into local government in New South Wales

1. Experience with local government amalgamations:
 - Implemented City of Onkaparinga (SA) amalgamation of three Councils in 1997 as CEO (resigned October 2011)
 - Review of 2004 NSW amalgamations for Independent Local Government Review Panel
 - Managed de-amalgamation of Douglas Shire from Cairns Regional Council (Qld) in 2013
2. Four stages:
 - Deciding
 - Planning
 - Implementing
 - Monitoring and evaluating
3. Seven lessons
 - Partnering approach (State Government and LGNSW support)
 - Fresh start
 - Stakeholder involvement
 - Sound planning and implementation
 - Removal of barriers and addition of incentives
 - Transitional arrangements for elected representation
 - Independent monitoring and evaluation
4. Fresh start:
 - More than status quo in a bigger organisation
 - New strategies, policies, approaches
 - Clarity of roles (size of government)
 - Requires visionary leadership
 - Manage as a “region”, respect local differences
 - External support about what a fresh starts means locally