

Leichhardt, Marrickville, and Ashfield Councils vote to accept a three-way amalgamation

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Deborah FitzGerald and Lisa Herbertson



Ashfield Mayor Lucille McKenna: “This is something I’m recommending because we have a gun to our head.”

LEICHARDT, Marrickville, and Ashfield Councils are [set to merge](#) after Local Government Minister Paul Toole said he would accept the three-way amalgamation preference.

A meeting between the Labor mayors of the three local government areas and the minister yesterday saw motions put to all councils last night approving the merger [if forced amalgamations go ahead](#).

Leichhardt mayor Darcy Byrne, Marrickville mayor Sam Iskandar and Ashfield mayor Lucille McKenna met with Mr Toole who gave undertakings he would take the proposed merger to the Boundaries Commission and the councils would receive the \$25 million carrot on offer to councils who accept a merger.

Cr Byrne said all three councils would continue to operate autonomously until council elections in September next year.



Peter Boxall, chairman of IPART, NSW Premier Mike Baird and Minister for Local Government Paul Toole at last month's press conference where they announced the tough measures. Picture: Stephen Cooper

He said the workings of the new mega council would be discussed over the coming year but legislative changes may be needed to create new electorates and decide the number of representatives.

“We are not sure how it will work yet but there could be an oversight committee consisting of the mayors and general managers from each area.”