



The Committee for  
**Sydney**

# **Post-Hearing response #2**

## **Local Government in NSW**

### **General Purpose Standing Committee 6**

August 2015



# Questions on Notice

The Committee for Sydney was requested to provide further information on international examples where local government amalgamations have occurred, specifically with a focus on areas with multiple levels of government that reflect the 3 tiers of Australian Government.

Please find below two examples we believe are instructive for the Sydney context.

## Paris

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The Metropole du Grand Paris or the Metropolis of Greater Paris is a new global plan for the Paris Metropolitan Region. The metropolis will include the city of Paris and the three inner suburbs of Hauts-de-Seine, Seine-Saint-Denis and Val-de-Marne. The size and structure of the project has resulted in it being described as the French equivalent of Greater London.

The Metropolis of Greater Paris will oversee housing, urban planning, the environment and economic development. By combining the separate regions, the metropolis will pool common resources to improve daily life and create a sustainable urban, social and economic model.<sup>1</sup> "Greater Paris is about the capital playing a role in the European and the world economy [and becoming] a sustainable city for the post-Kyoto era."<sup>2</sup> This project will bring Paris on par with the world's leading 'alpha cities' of London, New York and Tokyo.<sup>3</sup>

## Berlin

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**Please note:** We have drawn this information from the Berlin City Online Portal.<sup>4</sup>

### **Borough reform**

After reunification in 1990, Berlin consisted of 23 boroughs. A constitutional amendment passed by the House of Representatives in 1998 set the parameters for borough reform, which went into effect at the beginning of 2001 and reduced the number of boroughs to twelve. Only the three largest boroughs, Neukölln, Reinickendorf, and Spandau, were unchanged by the reform. The others were combined into larger administrative units, although the original borders were retained. At the same time, the new borough structure achieves a certain balance in terms of population size.

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<sup>1</sup> Mairie De Paris- [www.paris.fr](http://www.paris.fr)

<sup>2</sup> Crumley, B 2009, 'Sarkozy's Big Plan for a Greater Paris', *Time Magazine*, May 2009, <http://content.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1895290,00.html>

<sup>3</sup> Roger Durieux, L 2015, 'As Paris Expands, What Will Become of its Notorious Neighbourhoods', *Quartz*, March 2015, <http://qz.com/352031/as-paris-expands-what-will-become-of-its-notorious-suburbs/>

<sup>4</sup> Berlin.de 2015, 'Berlin's boroughs following borough reform',



### Boroughs

Since 1995, Berlin's boroughs have been given lump sum payments from the state budget with which they are to discharge their responsibilities as administrative units. This enables them to set their own financial priorities and increases their autonomy and independence.

Borough populations	
<b>Mitte:</b>	342,117
<b>Friedrichshain-Kreuzberg:</b>	275,601
<b>Pankow:</b>	377,638
<b>Charlottenburg-Wilmersdorf:</b>	324,931
<b>Spandau:</b>	229,267
<b>Steglitz-Zehlendorf:</b>	298,341
<b>Tempelhof-Schöneberg:</b>	335,354
<b>Neukölln:</b>	319,658
<b>Treptow-Köpenick:</b>	245,203
<b>Marzahn-Hellersdorf</b>	253,748
<b>Lichtenberg:</b>	266,307
<b>Reinickendorf:</b>	244,861

[Source: State Statistical Office; 2012]

The borough administrations consist of the borough assembly and the borough office. The members of the borough assembly are elected by German citizens eligible to vote and by

EU nationals living in the borough in question. Parties receiving less than three percent of the votes cast in an election will not be represented in the borough assembly. The borough offices consist of the borough mayor and the borough councilors, who share administrative responsibility.

The mayors of all the boroughs, the Governing Mayor of Berlin, and his deputy, the Mayor of Berlin, comprise the Council of Mayors. The Senate is obligated to consult the Council of Mayors on fundamental legislative and administrative issues. The same applies to bills from the House of Representatives.

## **Additional International Examples**

In addition to these examples, we would like to direct the committee's attention to examine the international experience. Some examples might include:

- Toronto – Amalgamation in 1998
- Bergen, Norway
- Cape Town – Amalgamation in 2000
- Madrid
- New York
- Auckland