



23 May 2016
Daily Telegraph, Sydney

Author: Andrew Clennell • Section: General News • Article type : News Item
Classification : Capital City Daily • Audience : 256,835 • Page: 16
Printed Size: 134.00cm² • Market: NSW • Country: Australia • Words: 200
Item ID: 598191918

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DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY SERVICES
Information Services Branch

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Losing managers in council mergers will save millions

ANDREW CLENNELL

THE savings from sacking council general managers, senior directors and councillors as a result of Premier Mike Baird's move to merge 65 councils into 28 has been put at a potential \$26.3 million a year.

Analysis prepared by the Parliamentary Secretary to the

Treasurer, Matt Kean, shows the council mergers could result in \$8.7 million in salary savings from having fewer council general managers.

It also shows \$12.3 million in savings from having fewer senior council directors, \$4.04 million in councillors' salaries saved and \$1.2 million in mayoral salary savings.

A spokesman for Local

Government Minister Paul Toole said administrators of the new councils would determine what to do with the general managers, with some expected to be asked to stay for the transition of amalgamation. Councillors and mayors have been let go immediately.

One of the key tenants of the local government reform package has been the wish of

the Premier to reduce the number of council general managers and senior bureaucrats in the community.

Among the highest paid general managers of the councils to merge, Parramatta's GM, gets paid \$480,200 a year to manage 184,622 constituents — far in excess of Premier Mike Baird's salary of \$358,853.