

MEETING – THE HON. GABRIELLE UPTON MP MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT WITH
PHIL JENKYN OAM AND CAROLYN CORRIGAN FROM SAVE OUR COUNCILS COALITION (SOCC)

MEETING NOTES – 6 FEBRUARY 2017

1. SOCC

- a) Members and supporters are community groups, residents and councillors from across NSW.
- b) The aims are to keep councils local, no forced amalgamations and properly conducted plebiscites.
- c) Non-party political and transparent.

2. LOCAL COUNCILS IN COURT OR NOT MERGED

Merger Proposals must be withdrawn now. There are 10 councils in court, 11 councils affected by court decisions and others being considered for mergers. All must remain as local councils.

3. LOCAL COUNCILS FORCIBLY MERGED

- a) In administration since May 2016 with no elected councillors.
- b) The Greens, Labor, the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party and the Christian Democrats are offering a legislative route for the de-merging of these councils which is both effective and quick.
- c) This commitment was made at a public Rally called by SOCC on 5 February 2017 and has strong community support – see videos on <https://www.facebook.com/saveourcouncils>.
- d) This has a number of advantages over conducting plebiscites. If the Government decides to go the way of plebiscite it must take place in every original council area and be determinative of the issue of de-merger and take place as soon as it can be properly arranged.
- e) If the Government does not move quickly to resolve this matter as outlined, local communities will continue and indeed increase the battle to keep their local democracy.

4. ANGER AND DISMAY IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

There is considerable anger and dismay in local communities across NSW at the way the Government has attacked local communities and their elected councils. There is only one way that may abate to some degree, and that is to withdraw all forced mergers now.

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