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## BAIRD RESIGNS OVER FORCED COUNCIL AMALGAMATIONS

The real reason for Mike Baird's resignation as NSW Premier is the overwhelming rejection by local communities across NSW of the government's attack on local democracy and local councils with council amalgamations a key ingredient.

Voters felt deeply betrayed by Mike Baird as he never listened to their concerns and never had a mandate for such fundamental and far reaching change, says SOCC President Carolyn Corrigan.

Baird's and the Liberal/National Party's fortunes have declined dramatically over the issue of forced council amalgamations, culminating in the historic 34% swing against the Government in the Orange By-election, says Ms Corrigan

The Liberal National Party have now lost both its leaders - the Premier and Deputy Leader - over this issue, says Ms Corrigan.

The Government must immediately reverse its decision to force council amalgamations, said SOCC spokesperson Phil Jenkyn. If it fails to do so, it will lose the next election whoever the leader in 2019 and those local communities and councils forced to amalgamate will be de-amalgamate, says Mr Jenkyn.

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