

# Mike Baird exposed as the prodigal son who ran away from Democracy!

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BY OUR CIVIC ROUNDSMAN

**Damning parliamentary speeches made in 2007 by Premier Mike Baird and his father Bruce Baird have revealed the hypocrisy in the Baird Government's forced amalgamation attempt.**



*Broadcaster Alan Jones AO holds documents exposing Premier Mike Baird's hypocrisy during the huge anti-merger rally in Martin Place in November. TWT on-the-spot PHOTO.*

The speeches were read by broadcaster Alan Jones on his top rating 2GB radio show last Thursday during an interview with Lane Cove Cllr Scott Bennison who last week broke ranks with his Liberal colleagues on the council to give his passing vote to proposed legal action to challenge the forced amalgamation process.

Alan Jones quoted a speech by former Federal MP Bruce Baird in 2007 who supported a Federal Bill introduced by Prime Minister John Howard to fund plebiscites in Queensland where councils were being forced to amalgamate by the Beattie Government without the approval of ratepayers.

“This Bill shows the Government's commitment to freedom and the fundamental rights of the people of Australia”, Bruce Baird said.

Alan Jones then quoted Mike Baird's Maiden Speech to NSW Parliament, which was applauded by his father who attended the event.

“We need to heed what the electorate is saying”, Mike Baird said in the speech.

“We should never be ashamed of listening to our consciences and our community.

“In essence, this is why we are here”.

Nine years later Mike Baird has resisted overwhelming calls to give ratepayers in Hunters Hill, Lane Cove and Ryde their right to have the outcome of the forced mergers issue decided by a popular vote.

Even a recent Delegate’s Report to NSW Boundaries Commission at the Hunters Hill Sailing Club – which saw 80 per cent of local speakers oppose the forced amalgamation – snubs the communities views without so much as a token acknowledgement of our strongly held fears and convincing arguments.

Since then Alan Jones has repeatedly condemned Mike Baird’s attack on our fundamental grassroots local democracy by a government increasingly being described as a dictatorship.

“How can any government bury the kind of freedom Australians have fought for and died for?” Alan Jones asked.

“How can any government dismantle it and think they can get away with it?

“The Liberal Party is navigating very, very treacherous waters and there are plenty of people in this fight with a lot of brains and strong wills, who will not be beaten or bowed.

“This is going to get a lot worse before it gets better, mark my words”.

Alan Jones has previously released documents and comments by State Liberal MPs who – like Lane Cove MP Anthony Roberts – have previously gone on public record to oppose forced amalgamations.

The Weekly Times Managing Editor John F Booth AM was also on Thursday’s Alan Jones program and has called on Mr Roberts, Ryde MP Victor Dominello, Epping MP Damien Tudehope and Drummoyne MP John Sidoti to have the courage to put their communities before their unquestioning loyalty to Mike Baird and the party and to support our local community fight against the current forced amalgamations of our councils.

<http://www.weeklytimes.com.au/mike-baird-exposed-as-the-prodigal-son-who-ran-away-from-democracy/>



Alan Jones AO 2GB with Clr Scott Bennison <http://www.2gb.com/article/alan-jones-%E2%80%93-scott-bennison>