

Alan Jones urges community to fight Baird's dictatorship

THE WEEKLY TIMES June 15, 2016

BY OUR CIVIC ROUNDSMAN AT PARLIAMENT HOUSE

TWT EXCLUSIVE

Premier Mike Baird's forced amalgamation of councils across Sydney and the bush has shown him to be a dictator prepared to squander tens of millions of dollars to squash democracy, broadcaster Alan Jones told a conference of Mayors at NSW Parliament on Thursday.



Mr Jones was guest speaker at the Mayoral Summit which was hosted by NSW Opposition Leader Luke Foley and attended by over 20 mayors including the Mayors of Ryde and Lane Cove whose councils could be abolished and forcibly merged with Hunters Hill in a mega council within days.

The popular broadcaster was scathing about our forced amalgamation and what he said was a process of lies and sham public consultation used to justify it.

“This is uncomfortable for me to say but we are being run by a government of liars and democracy isn't just on the rack, it is out the backdoor!

“This is a government eroding the democratic process Australians have fought and died for and it is now up to community members to get out there and take action in the public interest”.

Court action by Hunters Hill, Lane Cove and other councils “to get to the truth” behind the forced mergers was raised by Alan Jones who suggested the Baird government was deliberately stretching out the court cases to penalise local ratepayers.

“Why is the government delivering more and more documents late?” he asked.

“Is it to run up legal fees and to make councils broke the way they want them to be?”

Alan Jones also threatened to use his talkback radio show to release details from top secret delegates’ reports to the Boundary Commission which he said are strikingly similar and ignore the views of ratepayers who attended a public hearing at the Hunters Hill Sailing Club last year and other Sydney public hearings.

“You may think a delegate’s report from Mosman would be different to the one in Ryde, but it is not ... it is the same, the wording is exactly the same!” he said.

Alan Jones supports referendums on forced mergers and stressed that bigger is not better ... unless you are a former banker like Mike Baird.

“The bank manager would rather lend one bloke ten million dollars than ten blokes one million dollars because it is less work for him to manage and gives him more totalitarian control”, he said.

Mayoral Summit organiser Luke Foley said Australia would be imposing sanctions and recalling ambassadors from countries who suppressed democracy in the way Mike Baird has.

“Today we’ve got Mayors, democratically elected by millions of voters, sitting on death row to be replaced by administrators accountable only to Baird”, he said.



“Baird has trashed democracy”.

Mr Foley has given a commitment to rescind a forced merger of Ryde, Hunters Hill and Lane Cove if elected.

In the meantime both he and Ryde Mayor Jerome Laxale warn that a government appointed administrator for Ryde, Hunters Hill and Lane Cove could be aided and advised by some current, handpicked local Liberal Party councillors prepared to serve as collaborators in paid positions for personal political gain.

“It’s a racket”, Mr Foley said.

“These councillors are stooges and patsies.”

A highlight of the Mayoral Summit was a tearful speech by the National Party Mayor of abolished Gloucester Shire Clr John Rosenbaum who said he feels “absolutely shattered” the

amalgamations are being forced through with the support of a party he has given his life to serve.

“My life has been dragged through hell and I can’t go any further, I’m absolutely shattered, I’ve been challenged too much”, Clr Rosenbaum said.

Lane Cove Mayor Deborah Hutchens (Liberal) expressed similar feelings.

<http://www.weeklytimes.com.au/alan-jones-urges-community-to-fight-bairds-dictatorship/>