

No Christmas Joy for Premier at Hunters Hill Council – Baird Blasted as ‘Arrogant Dictator’!

BY OUR CIVIC ROUNDSMAN

Premier Mike Baird is treating Hunters Hill as an insignificant backwater and is arrogant and dictatorial, Hunters Hill Council heard on Monday night.



Mayor Richard Quinn



Clr Meredith Sheil



Clr Peter Astridge

Councillors voted unanimously to accept the condemnation in a report by Mayor Richard Quinn which also blamed the Premier’s plunge in popularity on forced mergers, such as the proposed forced merger of Hunters Hill with Lane Cove and the City of Ryde.

“The Premier is reinforcing the perception that he is arrogant, dictatorial, not listening and bulldozing his way over our community concerns,” the Mayoral report said.

Councillor Dr Meredith Sheil added that the Premier is being poorly advised about Hunters Hill.

“He considers Hunters Hill as an insignificant backwater and we should be calling on our local State Member (Anthony Roberts) to talk with him on our behalf.”

Councillor Peter Astridge was furious that numerous rallies, protest meetings and a Boundary Commission hearing at the Hunters Hill Sailing Club had not got the message through to Baird that more than 80 per cent of ratepayers oppose the proposed forced merger.

“It should be obvious that all this time wasting, all this money has been swept under the carpet and it is absolutely disgusting in my opinion.” he said.

The Council also heard that proposed forced merger partner The City of Ryde “does not currently give appropriate priority” to heritage issues.

Hunters Hill is required to appear before the Court of Appeal by December 19 to challenge the process used to justify a forced merger and is expected to formally submit its grounds for appeal by this date.

<http://www.weeklytimes.com.au/council-meeting-blasts-baird-as-arrogant-dictatorial/>