

# Council mergers fiasco ‘Gigantic Stuff-up!’

## ‘Court ruling a victory for grassroots democracy’

BY OUR CHIEF CIVIC ROUNDSMAN

**“This is a victory for grassroots democracy”** Hunters Hill Mayor Cllr Richard Quinn said yesterday commenting on the NSW Court of Appeal ruling against the Berejiklian State Government’s forced amalgamation of councils.



*Mayor Richard Quinn*

In a landmark decision the Court ruled that “the proposal made by the Minister for Local Government Under Section 21E(1) of the Local Government Act 1993 for the amalgamation of Hunters Hill, Lane Cove and Ryde local government areas is invalid”.

Further the Court of Appeal has ordered the Minister pay Hunters Hill Council’s costs of the original hearing before the Land and Environment Court and the subsequent Court of Appeal hearing.

Mayor Quinn said “the ticking timepiece of the NSW Government’s “Fit for the Future” forced mergers agenda has ground to a halt and fallen apart cog by cog.

“The real losers in all of this are the electors of NSW who now have to foot the bill of yet another stuff-up by the Government”

<http://www.weeklytimes.com.au/nsw-government-blasted-by-court/> .