

Hunters Hill tells Baird where to stick his invitation

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Last Tuesday night's Extraordinary Meeting of Hunters Hill councillors voted unanimously to tell Premier Baird where to stick his recent invitation to them to serve on a transitional council, intended to bully the local community to accept forced mergers.



Councillors and residents addressing the Hunters Hill Extraordinary Council Meeting

The passionately supported motion to condemn the invitation – moved by Cllr Dr Meredith Sheil – also called for an urgent meeting with Premier Mike Baird to put Hunters Hill's vote, personally.

The Extraordinary Meeting follows Expression of Interest invitations sent to Hunters Hill, Ryde and Lane Cove councillors by the Baird Government on Easter Thursday, which have been described as Evil by Cllr Sheil and Cllr Peter Astridge.

Councillor Sheil also warned that the Baird Government intends a political takeover of Hunters Hill which would be represented by unelected, handpicked, Liberal Party bully boys appointed by the Premier.

“This process is so blatantly politically biased it cannot stand up, it must not stand up!” Clr Sheil said.

“It will see handpicked people aligned with the Liberal Party running our lives for a year in a blatant, an absolutely blatant, political takeover.”

Councillor Astridge warned that signing the Premier’s invitation would give Hunters Hill’s approval for a takeover bid by proposed forced merger partner Ryde, whose councillors would outnumber Hunters Hill’s by nine to one on a merged mega council.

“What chance have we got when the whole process is stacked to put in Liberal Party members and where representatives from Ryde will only be interested in Ryde,” Clr Astridge said. “These are people who are not even interested in Gladesville.”

Councillor Justine McLaughlin agreed. “This (transitional) council will be L-shaped and it will be L for Liberal, I will not sign!”

Mayor Richard Quinn also stressed he will neither submit nor sign his invitation and said details of legal action against the government by Hunters Hill will be released within days.

Local resident Ron Kaplan and other speakers urged the Council to seek a High Court injunction against Baird and the meeting praised Woollahra Council for its decision to take legal action on Friday.

Save Hunters Hill Municipality Coalition spokesman Phil Jenkyn dismissed concerns that some self-seeking Ryde Liberals may be tempted to sign.

“All they’ll be doing is the bidding of a government, an incompetent and corrupt government,” he said.

“Clearly, this invitation has been addressed to those councillors committed to the destruction of Hunters Hill.”

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