

SAVE HUNTERS HILL MUNICIPALITY COALITION

A coalition of community groups and residents determined to save the historic Municipality of Hunters Hill

Web: www.savehuntershill.wordpress.com · Facebook: www.facebook.com/savehuntershill

The Hon. Mike Baird MP,
NSW Premier
30 November 2016

Dear Premier,

Re: Proposed Merger of Hunters Hill with the City of Ryde and Lane Cove Councils

The Hunters Hill community remains strongly opposed to the forced amalgamation of the historic Municipality of Hunters Hill with the City of Ryde and Lane Cove Councils.

Hunters Hill is a cohesive community that has been electing its own representatives to its own local council for 155 years. The community is strong and determined to retain its own local democracy. The Council is efficient and sustainable and is able to gain added capacity through cooperation on a regional basis with surrounding councils.

The way forward is to keep local councils like Hunters Hill local, and for these councils to cooperate with neighbours, as was an option in the Sansom Report and the unanimous recommendation of the Upper House Inquiry.

The fact that the Government has not been listening to communities over forced amalgamations and did not listen to the Upper House has been a major cause in the dramatic swing away from the Government by voters, as illustrated in the recent Local Government elections and the Orange By-election.

Communities across NSW like Hunters Hill are calling out for the Government to withdraw its forced amalgamations and merger proposals some of which are in court, and change its policy on forced amalgamations. It must genuinely listen to and engage with local communities and their councils in a cooperative way – not dictate.

Hunters Hill and its community is not going away. We will continue this battle until it is won. If the Government does not back off and it becomes necessary, we will de-amalgamate after the inevitable change of government in 2019.

Kind regards,

Phil Jenkyn OAM and Ross Williams Emeritus Mayor,
Co-convenors,

Save Hunters Hill Municipality Coalition (SHHMC)

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