

# Letters to the TWT Editor 5 Sept 2017

## **Beware candidates political stacking**

Dear Sir,

**Voting for a “NSW Liberal candidate” or a candidate who runs as a “Liberal Party Independent” or as a “preselected Liberal” in the forthcoming local government elections on September 9 will be a sure pathway for Liberals to merge councils.**

The NSW Liberals do not support grassroots local democracy or plebiscites for merging councils.

They announced they have dropped the highly unpopular forced amalgamations for Councils who are in court against the NSW government because they feared that the court cases would go against them and they would not gain control of all councils as they hoped to do after the September Council elections.

However, they may now seek to gain control of councils through council election “candidate stacking”.

This will put the new Liberal councillors under their ultimate control to move a Notice of Motion for voluntary mergers.

The NSW Liberal government will thus be in a position to pay back their lobbyists and financial donors, for having facilitated their dirty deeds.

Due to health issues, I will not be able to stand as Councillor candidate for this election. However, I wish to specially thank all my wonderful Hunters Hill supporters, my past fellow Councillors, the council staff and the community who have supported me for the past 22 years in making Hunters Hill and its surrounding areas the greatest and most privileged place to call home and to live.

Hunters Hill Council has been financially viable and fit for the future for over 155 years and that will never change.

Although the battles with state and federal governments during that time have been endless, we have always won the day due to our dedicated, courageous community and its unstoppable will to fight.

As a close-knit community, we leave no stone unturned and haven't given up until the battles have been won and I am proud to say that I have always been a part of it all.

It is unfortunate that the NSW Liberals have now stooped to a new low where they are supporting Liberals masquerading as Independents to diffuse the Independents' power.

I strongly urge our community to put its support behind its experienced “Unaffiliated true Independents” who truly have the welfare of Hunters Hill at heart and who are not just career politically minded or party preselected.

Please do not support the political party followers from Macquarie Street who will take away your representation and remove the **local** out of local government, leaving you with no say in the future planning or in the building of our suburbs and heritage.

Now it is up to us as a community, to support local democracy by voting for the candidates who will take Hunters Hill into the future. Nothing is beyond our reach.

**PETER ASTRIDGE**

**Councillor, Hunters Hill Council**

## **Forced mergers still possible**

**Dear Sir,**

**“We have scorched the snake,**

**Not killed it,**

**She’ll close and be herself,**

**Whilst (our local councils)**

**Remains in danger of her former tooth” (Act 2, Scene 2, Macbeth)**

On 18 November 2015, at Martin Place, Mr Alan Jones AO, Australian radio broadcaster, savaged the NSW LNP Government on its forced, local council amalgamations, disclosing documents signed by Barry O’Farrell MP, signed by Paul Toole and his family, signed by Andrew Stoner, all certifying that the Liberal National Party Coalition Government of NSW would have NO FORCED council AMALGAMATIONS, if elected.

Mr Jones said: “It is clear that the Government of NSW was lying to the people of NSW...Politicians who tell conspicuous lies”.

Mr Jones closed with “This is not going to go away, and we will not let it go away”.

Mr Anthony Roberts Liberal MP for Lane Cove has been found to be missing from August 2015 to this date.

Mr Paul Toole MP, spent over half a billion dollars on the forced amalgamations of local councils over 2 ½ years, culminating in the Local Government (Council Amalgamations) Proclamation, under the Local Government Act, 1993, signed and sealed at Sydney on 12 May 2016.

Issued under Paul Toole MP Minister for Local Government “The object of this Proclamation is to constitute and amalgamate various local government areas ...”

Under section 32 of the Proclamation the assets, rights and liabilities of former councils are transferred to the new council.

To further forcefully amalgamate any other council, Mr Paul Toole MP simply adds the council to a new schedule at the rear of the Proclamation.

On Friday 23 September 2016 at Hunters Hill Council (“HHC”) Liberal councillor Zac Miles spoke supporting his motion to terminate further council expenditure on legal expenses, contesting the amalgamation of HHC.

The Miles motion, if passed, would have within days lead to the forced amalgamation and annihilation of HHC.

In the Saturday September 9 council election, Zac Miles is the mayoral candidate leading six approved Liberal Party members poised to bite the HHC to death.

**JAMES A KEARNEY**

**Hunters Hill**