

## BAIRD'S FIT FOR THE FUTURE FARCE

# 'Doomsday for Lane Cove'

## Liberal Mayor disgusted with Liberal State Govt and Party

BY OUR CIVIC ROUNDSMAN

"This is Day One of Hell for us, doomsday for Lane Cove," Liberal Mayor Deborah Hutchens told The Weekly Times on hearing the Baird State Government's announcement.

"It is disgusting, an absolute insult to our democratically elected councillors and to our community because it looks like an administrator will come in knowing nothing about our area and with no idea about what makes it tick.

"I've lost any kind of respect for the State Government and my faith and hope in the Liberal Party."

Mayor Hutchens and City of Ryde Mayor Jerome Laxale declared their solidarity with Hunters Hill.

"There is a very big iceberg dead ahead that threatens to sink our council and our local democracy," Mayor Laxale said.

"This is the action of a total dictatorship and we're gutted, absolutely gutted."

Mayor Laxale said he will call an emergency meeting of Ryde Council to discuss a fight back and Hunters Hill Cllr Dr Meredith Sheil has an emergency motion to be heard at next Monday night's council meeting at the Town Hall.

Ryde MP Victor Dominello defended the merger, which he said would end the political in-fighting that has plagued the City of Ryde for years.

"People have given up on the dysfunction at Ryde Council, it is time for a fresh start," he said.

Mr Dominello said the preferred name for the mega council is Riverside, which will reflect its location between the Parramatta River and the Lane Cove River.

## Coalition demands Roberts Resign

In other political developments Save Hunters Hill Municipality Coalition spokesman Phil Jenkyn OAM has demanded that Lane Cove MP Anthony Roberts resigns from State Cabinet and said his group would be campaigning at the Federal election to "Put The Liberals Last".

"This is Baird throwing a massive bomb in Malcolm Turnbull's campaign," he said.

"It shows Baird in his true colours which is all about gutting councils to get his way with big property developers."

The Coalition is also seeking funding for a Group Action and may ask residents to contrib-

ute five dollars per household to a fighting fund.

Mr Roberts responded to Mr Jenkyn's demand and told The Weekly Times he has served the community for more than half his life and nothing will change his commitment.

"Anyone who thinks the Hunters Hill community is so shallow that that it is defined by who picks up the garbage and who repairs the pot holes doesn't understand the community," he said.

Mr Roberts also stressed his commitment to heritage, which includes his on-going advocacy for historic Gladesville hospital.

In late news, Mayor Quinn confirmed he has been approached by the community to run for the Seat of Lane Cove and has not ruled out this option at this stage.

"Richard Quinn would make a wonderful candidate because he is a person with integrity," Mr Jenkyn said.

"He would have the overwhelming support of our community."

New South Wales Opposition Leader Luke Foley told The Weekly Times a Labor Government will scrap Baird's laws and restore local democracy.

"Elected mayors and councillors have been sacked by the stroke of a pen and replaced by unelected dictators," Mr Foley said.

"This is the savaging of local democracy by Mike Baird with boundaries drawn up for the Liberal Party's electoral interest in the greatest act of boundary rigging since Joh Bjelke-Petersen's notorious gerrymandering in the 1970s.

"The next Labor Government in New South Wales will allow local communities to determine their own futures."

