

# Liberal MPs put on notice over forced merger

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**Every Liberal and National Party MP in NSW will be warned of the continued fight by Hunters Hill and Lane Cove against a hugely unpopular, proposed forced merger with Ryde.**



*With oranges strewn at her feet to symbolise the defeat of the Baird Government in the Orange by-election, SOCC spokesperson Carolyn Corrigan calls on all Liberal MPs to fight against the forced merger of Hunters Hill and Lane Cove into a mega council based on Ryde. TWT on-the-spot PHOTO*

Save Hunters Hill Municipality Coalition spokesman Phil Jenkyn and Save Our Councils Coalition spokeswoman Carolyn Corrigan will write to the MPs this week to seek support for the proposed forced merger to be withdrawn immediately.

“Put simply, Liberal MP Anthony Roberts will be defeated in the Seat of Lane Cove if this proposed merger is not withdrawn by the next State election,” Mr Jenkyn said.

“It is time to act now because the forced merger will inevitably be withdrawn by a Labor Government with the support of the Greens, the Christian Democrats, the Shooters Fishers and Farmers Party as well as other independents after the election.

“Make no mistake; you ignore the overwhelming voice of our community at your peril.”

The letter demands that MPs – including Lane Cove MP Anthony Roberts and Ryde MP Victor Dominello - stand up to oppose the merger both in parliament and locally, despite our local forced merger being heard in court.

“SOCC calls upon every Liberal Party member to stand up and oppose forced council amalgamations both within the Party and in the public arena.”

“Forced amalgamations, merger proposals before the courts and the hated policy must all be withdrawn now,” The Joint Letter warns.

“There is widespread community opposition and anger on this issue.”

The letter reminds MPs of the fall in the government’s popularity due to forced mergers and that the chances of retaining their own seats will depend on scrapping this undemocratic policy.

“The Premier’s and the Government’s fortunes dramatically fell after the destruction of local councils and the case is overwhelming against forced amalgamations and keeping councils local and based on areas where there is an identity and where people feel a sense of belonging is critical.

“The campaign to stop forced council amalgamations has the massive support of very angry communities as shown in the Orange By-election.

“This will continue and increase in intensity until the government either loses office in 2019 or withdraws the forced mergers.”

<http://www.weeklytimes.com.au/liberal-mps-put-on-notice-that-forced-merger-stinks/>