

LOWER NORTH SHORE

# Park rally sends a united merger message to Baird



Sunday's rally attracted mass support from across the state, including Mosman Deputy Mayor Carolyn Corrigan and North Sydney Deputy Mayor Jeff Morris (above, right).

# Local councils maintain the rage in their anti-amalgamation battle

## Caroline Tang

“NORTH Sydney and Mosman are united in our determination to remain divided,” was the message from the councils’ deputy mayors at a community rally against forced mergers.

The Save Our Councils Coalition’s “local democracy not dictatorship” protest was in Hyde Park on Sunday and attracted supporters from across NSW.

Mosman Deputy Mayor Carolyn Corrigan estimated up to 50 Mosman residents attended.

The council provided rally posters after last week’s council meeting. Cr Corrigan said forced amalgamations would now be a factor in the coming election.

Last month, Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce urged country communities to maintain independence, following the concession from federal MP for North Sydney Trent Zimmerman that the issue affected his by-election win in December.

Cr Corrigan said the fight against forced mergers was far from over and there was a united call for a plebiscite or referendum.

She said Premier Mike



Baird had failed to listen from the start.

At last week’s Mosman Council meeting, Mayor Peter Abelson read a strongly-worded mayoral minute, reinforcing council’s desire to remain independent.

Six of the seven councillors agreed to endorse the council’s policy against forced mergers and oppose the proposed merger of Mosman with North Sydney and Willoughby.

Cr Simon Menzies failed to win majority support for his proposal of a Mosman and North Sydney merger.

The majority of councillors also agreed to seek advice on whether legal action being pursued by Woollahra Council was applicable to the proposed Mosman, North Sydney and Willoughby merger.