

## SAVE HUNTERS HILL MUNICIPALITY COALITION REPORT 11 DECEMBER 2016

### A CALL FOR ACTION

Save Hunters Hill Municipality Coalition (SHHMC) is calling upon every Liberal Party and National Party member of the NSW Parliament to stand up and oppose forced council amalgamations both within their Party and in the public arena.



*Some of the distinctive signs at polling booths in the Orange By-election held 12 Nov 2016*

**Forced amalgamations, merger proposals before the courts and the hated policy – must all be withdrawn now.**

SHHMC has sent a letter to this effect to [Premier Baird](#) dated 30 Nov 16 hand delivered to him by the Mayor at their meeting on 1 December, and a letter to our local member [Anthony Roberts](#) dated 2 Dec 16.

As the local member is refusing to speak up and represent his electors – he should resign.

Hunters Hill Mayor Richard Quinn and Cllr Meredith Sheil met with the Premier on 1 December and submitted that Hunters Hill should on its merits remain an independent council and a member of a regional grouping of councils – see [Mayoral Minute](#) 12 Dec 2016, [TWT article](#) and [letter](#) 7 Dec 16.

Save Our Councils Coalition (SOCC) has also sent an [email](#) to all members of the NSW Parliament and a specific [letter](#) to all members of the Government - making the same call.

The Baird Government is now in total disarray over forced council amalgamations.

The Premier's and the Government's fortunes fell dramatically after his announcement in early January 2016 of his forced merger proposals designed to destroy over 60 councils and create huge mega bureaucracies. In May 2016, 42 councils were forcibly merged while others like Hunters Hill are challenging the process in court.

By September 2016 Baird had suffered the biggest fall in net satisfaction of any State Premier in the history of Newspoll - [SOCC Report](#) 10 Oct 16. That fall has continued [The Australian](#) 8 Dec 16, his satisfaction rating having fallen from 61% to 35% over the last year.

Local government elections in September saw big swings against the Government and the State Orange By-election held 12 November 2016 saw a massive 34% swing [SOCC Report](#) 29 Nov 16.

The major reason for these massive swings and Baird's loss of popularity is his hated and ill-conceived forced council amalgamation agenda. He has already lost a Deputy Premier, the leader of the NSW Nationals and his Deputy over this issue. Baird is next to go unless he withdraws now.

Hunters Hill Council's court case in the Court of Appeal challenging the merger process has not yet been given a date for hearing and it is unlikely that it will be heard before April next year. Council's lawyers have advised that there are reasonable grounds for appeal. The Woollahra appeal reserved in August is unlikely to obtain a decision before February 2017.

As you can see below, an enjoyable time was had by those recently attending in Orange.



We ask our members and supporters to make contact with our local MP [Anthony Roberts](#) by email or phone or in person, and let him know in your own words what you think he should do – and don't forget the Premier [Mike Baird](#) would love to hear from you.

The Baird Government is in the process of losing this battle and we are not going anywhere until we win.

Thank you for your ongoing support and have an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. Don't forget to keep in touch by visiting <https://savehuntershill.wordpress.com/tag/important/> and <https://www.facebook.com/savehuntershill>

Kind regards,

Phil and Ross

Phil Jenkyn OAM and Ross Williams Emeritus Mayor

Co-convenors,

Save Hunters Hill Municipality Coalition (SHMHC)

Web: [www.savehuntershill.org](http://www.savehuntershill.org) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/savehuntershill](https://www.facebook.com/savehuntershill)