

SHHMC Report on Councils Appeals 30 Sept 2016

On 20 September the Land and Environment Court rejected legal challenges by Hunters Hill, Lane Cove, Ku-ring-gai and Shellharbour Councils against the Baird Government's forced amalgamation process.

The Court however found in favour of Mosman, North Sydney and Strathfield Councils on the basis that the Government's appointed delegates had committed a number of legal errors.



The five Hunters Hill Councillors who voted to commence an appeal: Justine McLaughlin, Dr Meredith Sheil, Mayor Richard Quinn, Deputy Mayor Mark Bennett and Peter Astridge. Photo: Courtesy TWT.

Hunters Hill Council at an Extraordinary Meeting on Friday evening 23 September resolved to commence an appeal to the NSW Supreme Court, after receiving legal advice that there were “good” and “reasonable” grounds to appeal.

Draft resolutions appear on the Hunters Hill Council website [here](#).

All other Councils above are appealing on various grounds after receiving legal advice including those who were successful, except Lane Cove who is considering its position.

For further details see the *Save Our Councils Coalition* (SOCC) Report [here](#).

At the Meeting the Hunters Hill Council chambers were overflowing with concerned and passionate residents, many determined to retain the independence of their Municipality.

The following residents spoke in favour of an appeal: Jim Sanderson, Helen Temple, Ron Kaplan, Bridget Hawthorne, Ross Williams and Phil Jenkyn. Chris Schofield and Justin Parry-Okeden spoke against.

Councillors voting in favour of the resolutions were Mayor Richard Quinn, Mark Bennett, Meredith Sheil, Justine McLaughlin and Peter Astridge; and those against were Zac Miles and Gary Bird.



Residents addressing Hunters Hill Council



Councillors listening to community

The Weekly Times reported on the Meeting in detail under the front page banner “Hunters Hill votes to fight Baird” – see article [here](#).

The Northern District Times also featured the Meeting with a front page heading “Merger War Not Over” – see [here](#).

Council has already initiated proceedings in the Court of Appeal.

Woollahra Council’s appeal to the Court of Appeal is still awaiting decision. Hunters Hill Council will be holding another meeting after that decision is delivered, or earlier if need be.

Oberon, Cabonne and Gundagai Councils are still waiting a decision of the Land and Environment Court to their challenge to the process.

The new Liberal [Mayor of Ryde](#) has recently stated that the forced merger with Hunters Hill is in his view “inevitable” and that he would be leading Ryde into the new mega council.

The proposed forced amalgamation is not inevitable, this battle can and will be won by communities and their elected councils standing up and fighting for local democracy, transparency and good governance.

Please keep up to date on all relevant information through the website and facebook pages.

Phil Jenkyn OAM and Ross Williams Emeritus Mayor
Co-convenors,

Save Hunters Hill Municipality Coalition (SHHMC)

Web: www.savehuntershill.org Facebook: www.facebook.com/savehuntershill



Long live the Municipality of Hunters Hill (1861) – Australia’s oldest “garden suburb”!