

Sue Hoopmann quits the Liberal Party over proposed forced amalgamation of Hunters Hill



Hunters Hill Emeritus Mayor Sue Hoopmann OAM congratulating nine year old Emily Edwards on her speech to Council. TWT on-the-spot PHOTO

On Monday evening 10 October 2016 former Mayor Sue Hoopmann OAM delivered a passionate and defiant speech to Hunters Hill Council. She strongly supported the Council continuing its legal appeal against the court decision concerning the forced amalgamation of Hunters Hill with the City of Ryde and Municipality of Lane Cove.

Sue Hoopmann was Hunters Hill's first popularly elected Mayor, and was on Council for 20 years and Mayor for ten of those years. She was awarded an OAM in 2013 for service to local government.

Sue was a loyal member of the Liberal Party for over 30 years.

There were a number of speakers on the night in support of the Council taking action, including an inspiring speech by nine year old Emily Edwards.

The Council after debate, by 5 votes to 2 resolved to continue the appeal in the Supreme Court.

Below is the speech Sue Hoopmann OAM delivered to Hunters Hill Council.



Hunters Hill Councillors Justine McLaughlin, Dr Meredith Sheil, Mayor Richard Quinn, Deputy Mayor Mark Bennett and Peter Astridge, resolved to continue the appeal over the proposed forced merger with the City of Ryde and Lane Cove. TWT on the spot PHOTO.

“Mr Mayor and Councillors,

Thank you for getting us to this point.

Over the years governments have listened to us in Hunters Hill.

Both Liberal and Labor, State and Federal, have heard ‘our fight’ and FINALLY given in on many occasions.

There are plenty of examples – the Defence Lands – The High School – The Priory – Two attacks from Ryde

But this State Government is not only refusing to listen but not willing to talk, to meet or anything, except to tell lies and they do that fearlessly.

We have always fought hard in Hunters Hill and aimed for the best for our area.

If you give up now, you will be accepting mediocrity – and the majority of residents want the best.

My cousins and friends in Melbourne tell me that since the Kennett Government amalgamations, there is no community feeling, no sense of belonging.

It is like another level of State Government. Beautiful old homes can be knocked down without even the neighbours knowing. Concrete mausoleums are everywhere.

I have resigned from the Liberal Party and they are sorry after all I have done. I am sorry too, but governments need to listen.

There were never Liberal endorsed candidates in our area. They asked, I said no and they listened.

It has all changed – and not for the better. Power and money rule their thinking.

You know, in every mainland State there is a local government area that has survived their government's amalgamations –

Western Australia – shire of Peppermint Grove

South Australia – town of Walkerville

Victoria – borough of Queenscliff

Queensland – shire of Noosa – fought and retained

In New South Wales there is no reason on earth why it should not be Hunters Hill – we have the history, a strong community and financial viability.

The places I have mentioned have small populations, some less than 3,000.

Financially you would have a concern as the court costs are mounting, but I can tell you that the people I talk to want the best for Hunters Hill regardless of cost and are happy to help.

The time is right for another go – we are nearly there and the government is desperate.

We know that this Premier can backflip. It would be a tragedy to give up now.

HANG IN THERE!"