

NORTHERN DISTRICT

Time ticking on deadline

Three weeks left to apply for spot on council

Adam Bell and Steven Deare

COUNCILLORS have been given three weeks to reapply for their jobs if they want to serve on newly-merged councils until the next elections.

With many councils starting down amalgamation by mid-year, the Local Government Minister Paul Toole has written to all councillors and mayors giving them until Friday, April 15, to apply for a role on the new councils.

“The NSW Government is considering options for providing currently-serving councillors with an opportunity to help shape the future of any new council,” Mr Toole wrote.

“To assist in this process, the Government is seeking expressions of interest from councillors who wish to be considered for a role in shaping the new council.”

MAYOR TICKS ALL THE BOXES, ADDS ONE

Criteria: (expressions of interest that meet all the criteria will be considered)

- Commitment to making the new council a success
- Willingness to make decisions that are in the best long term interest of the broader community
- Commitment to working collaboratively with Government in implementation
- Desire to represent the views of the community
- Commitment to promote the new council to the community
- Availability to serve the new council until the next local elections

IV Democratically Elected!

Supporting statement:

500 word supporting statement addressing the criteria (see over for handwritten responses)

- I was democratically elected
- I always fight for what is RIGHT
- BTW, I am the Mayor 😊

THREE Ryde councillors have confirmed they will apply to continue in their jobs on any merged council, while their peers consider it.

Mayor Jerome Laxale has submitted an application and included some strong views (see his form, pictured),

while deputy mayor Roy Maggio and councillor Artin Etmekdjian said they intended to apply.

The Local Government Boundaries Commission is considering a report on a merged Hunters Hill, Lane Cove and Ryde council.

Councillors Craig Chung, Justin Li, Denise Pendleton, Terry Perram, Bill Pickering, Jeff Salvestro-Martin, George Simon, Jane Stott and Sarkis Yedelian are yet to decide whether they will apply.

They have until April 15.

The move has been met with anger by many councillors and mayors who oppose the proposed mergers.

Under the Local Government Act, the Minister has the power to declare which elected councillors can stay on in the larger councils until the next elections.

By mid-year, the Minister will unveil the shape of the new councils after he con-

siders a report that is currently being prepared for the Boundaries Commission.

The new councils will be run by administrators until the elections which are likely to be held in March 2017.

In his letter, sent late on Wednesday night, the Minister also offered councillors

the “opportunity” to apply to be administrators.

They can also apply to sit on Local Representation Committees for the former council areas.

In their applications, councillors must write a 500-word statement and address criteria including commitment to making the

new council a success, commitment to working collaboratively with Government in implementation.

A separate letter has been issued to general managers to apply for their roles on the new councils.

Successful councillors and general managers will be notified by mid-2016.

Mr Toole said that councils had been calling for more clarity around interim governance arrangements.

“Although no decision has been made on any merger proposal, the Government is committed to ensuring effective implementation of any merger that goes ahead,” he said.