

Media Release: Voters get a say on Baird's forced council mergers plan and 95.5% say 'No!

DAVID SHOEBRIDGE·SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2016

The first electoral test of the Baird Government's forced amalgamation plans has seen 95.5% of voters in Kiama say 'no' to forced amalgamations and support of their local council standing alone.

In a purely voluntary referendum weekend initial counting shows that 47% of eligible voters turned out and 95.5% voted 'no' to the forced amalgamation and supported their council standing alone. The strong turnout will be shown to be even higher as postal votes are counted in the next few days. See:

<https://results.elections.nsw.gov.au/LB1604/Kiama/Poll/FirstPreferencesReport.pdf>

Greens MP and Local Government Spokesperson David Shoebridge

said: "This result is a credit to Kiama Council and local campaigners who have stared down Premier Baird and done what any responsible government should do, ask their residents.

"When 95.5% of voters are of one mind, and are coming out to support their local council, this makes it politically impossible for Mike Baird to push on with his forced amalgamation plan for Kiama.

"The mood we have seen in Kiama is pretty much mirrored across NSW where local residents are strongly opposed to the forced amalgamation of their local councils.

"The comprehensive rejection of Baird's forced amalgamations in this plebiscite in Kiama explains why he and his Local Government Minister have been so keen to avoid referendums everywhere else in the state.

"The fact is, when residents get the chance to vote on forced amalgamations they come out and slam the proposals. They want to keep their local councils local.

"Surely even the arrogant and out of touch Baird government now knows that its forced amalgamation agenda is about as popular with voters as a dead cat.

"With more and more councils mounting legal challenges, this weekend's referendum adds to a growing state-wide revolt against forced amalgamations and in support of genuinely local and responsible councils," Mr Shoebridge said.



Comments

Andrew Sloan 64% of those who voted at the last election turned out for this voluntary vote. Don't ignore us Mr Baird. Kiama passed your scale and capacity tests, meets all your financial criteria, has 157 years of history and good governance, and 96% of us want you to leave Kiama alone. What more can you possibly need before making the right decision?

Marjorie Armstrong Oberon had a community meeting where well over 600 people attended and 94.3% voted for Oberon to Stand Alone. Did Baird or Toole care of even take any notice - sadly no they have not. Oberon has only 5200 people and at the last state election 1483 vote...[See More](#)

Bronwen Carr We shall fight them on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills, WE SHALL NEVER SURRENDER TO A CORRUPT MONEY SCAMMING POLITICIAN PRICK!

Jillian Blackall We shall fight them in the courts. smile emoticon

Jasminka Sinanovic 83% of people said NO to local government in 1983, much good it did us. Money for next referendum has been taken out by Abbott back in 2013. So why we have Local government if people of Australia clearly said NO in 1983 ???

<https://www.facebook.com/notes/david-shoebridge/media-release-voters-get-a-say-on-bairds-forced-council-mergers-plan-and-955-say/1180372361973951>