

Fight NSW council merger bully boys: Alan Jones

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Prime7 News 8 Nov 2016 - Radio stars buy into by-election.

Two of the most powerful voices in Australian media have weighed into the Orange by-election. Alan Jones and Ray Hadley are outspoken and opinionated, but why are they so interested?

<https://au.prime7.yahoo.com/n3/video/-/watch/33141887/radio-stars-by-into-by-election/>

NSW residents fuming about forced council mergers must stand up to state government "bully boys" at the ballot box, Sydney radio shock jock Alan Jones says.

Mr Jones said Premier Mike Baird had stopped listening to the backlash against amalgamations, arguing this weekend's by-elections were the perfect chance to send him a message.

"What we've got here in NSW is a government that thinks it can walk and stand over and bully you," Mr Jones told an anti-merger rally outside NSW Parliament on Tuesday.

"Here's your chance to put the government on notice."

NSW Greens MLC David Shoebridge echoed the broadcaster's call to arms, arguing local communities alone should elect councillors and determine the size of their councils.

"Whether you're voting in Wollongong, whether you're voting in Canterbury, or you're voting in Orange, remember the arrogance of Mike Baird and remember to support your local councils," Mr Shoebridge told the 50-person strong crowd.

"Local councils aren't going away, local community anger is not going away, and Mike Baird is going to learn that lesson this coming Saturday."

Opposition Leader Luke Foley again pledged to hold plebiscites on unwinding the planned council amalgamations if Labor wins office at the 2019 state election.

"We will give local communities in forcibly merged areas the chance to vote by way of plebiscite to determine democratically their own futures," Mr Foley said.



Opposition Leader Luke Foley addressing the anti-merger rally outside the Parliament