

Baird has damaged Liberal brand says Greens candidate

The Liberal Party brand has been significantly tarnished in Hunters Hill and Lane Cove by Mike Baird's attack on local democracy, Greens Candidate for North Sydney Dr Arthur Chesterfield Evans said on Monday.

In an exclusive interview with The Weekly Times Dr Chesterfield Evans said he had never seen a backlash against a party as strong as the outrage felt against the Liberals in the two council areas earmarked to be abolished.

"I've never seen militancy like this since the days of the Vietnam War," he said.

"I've never seen anger like this, there are ladies over 70 in Hunters Hill and Lane Cove attending rallies and hun-

dreds of homes displaying protest ribbons.

"They are saying they've had a gutful of Mike Baird's Liberals and they no longer trust or respect a party which has so blatantly sold out democracy."

Dr Chesterfield-Evans concedes that North Sydney MP Trent Zimmerman is opposed to Hunters Hill and Lane Cove being forced to merge with Ryde but believes the damage has been done to his party.

"You guys at The Weekly Times have nailed the issue with your revelations about

the Liberals' arrogance .. the arrogance of a party that knows what it is doing is deeply unpopular and doesn't care," he said.

"This has really hurt the Liberal brand."

Dr Chesterfield-Evans said he is baffled why Mike Baird is pushing ahead with the forced mergers.

"He's a cold merchant banker who believes everything can be bought and sold and in this case it is selling Hunters Hill's heritage and environmental protection in exchange for investment from property developers."

