

Baird has got it wrong on our local forced mergers

Hunters Hill Happenings with Mayor Richard Quinn



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

AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING was held by Council on Monday October 10 to further consider legal advice concerning the prospect of appealing the recent adverse decision on the merger in the Land and Environment Court.

Council resolved to lodge a formal appeal on the forced merger on the grounds contained in legal advice from Senior Counsel.

In his response to the NSW Government's recent backflip on the greyhounds issue, Premier Baird acknowledged that the Government has to listen to the community more and that it has made mistakes in policy.

This is true also for the Government's position on forced council mergers, where the Government has clearly "got it wrong".

Communities demand a say in how they are governed and our Council's position from the outset has been that the Government should ask the people of Hunters Hill local government area by way of a poll or plebiscite.

We must never give up on this important and fundamental democratic principle.

<http://www.weeklytimes.com.au/baird-has-got-it-wrong-on-our-local-forced-mergers/>