

Baird puts bite on Hunters Hill budget

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A Baird Government imposed freeze on Hunters Hill Council's ability to raise revenue is expected to see the Council hold workshops to consider budget restraints.

Monday night's Hunters Hill Council meeting heard the budget workshops will be held immediately as the Council strives to balance its budget by September.



Mayor Richard Quinn told the Council meeting that the government freeze applies to all Councils proposed for abolition and forced mergers but doesn't cover award wage rises for staff.

"Apart from a rate freeze we have no freeze on award wages so while our income is frozen these wages will continue to rise," he said.

"It is sending us backwards."

The Council heard this situation was not budgeted for because there was no expectation the Council would survive beyond May this year and has only been granted a stay of execution due to a current legal case to challenge the forced merger process.

Rate increases are out of the question, conceded Clr Dr Meredith Shiel.

"Due to the government, Council is no longer able to rely on special rates variations," she said.

"This situation has not occurred because of our spending but because of the forced merger process."

Hunters Hill Council did not have a special rates variation in the last financial year.

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