

CITY COUNCILS FIGHTING FORCED MERGERS IN COURT ARE VICTORIOUS 31 JULY 2017

It is one year since the NSW Court of Appeal on 31 July 2017 delivered a number of judgments that ordered or confirmed that the following 5 councils could not be forced to merge – Hunters Hill, Lane Cove, Mosman, North Sydney and Strathfield. Ku-ring-gai had earlier on succeeded in its appeal and Woollahra had obtained special leave to appeal to the High Court.

The effect of the judgments meant that the following councils also could not be merged – Ryde, Willoughby, Waverley, Randwick, Canada Bay, Burwood and Hornsby.



Members of Save Our Councils Coalition (SOCC) with David Shoebridge MLC at the SOCC media conference in the Domain.

On this same day 31 July the above Councils received formal letters from the relevant Minister that the Government had decided on 27 July that it would not proceed further with their proposed forced mergers.

‘Council Amalgamations in NSW: A Study in How Not to Tackle Hard Policy’ by Lynsey Blayden for AUSPUBLAW clearly sets out the many deficiencies in the process adopted by the NSW Government, and includes references to the court cases.

See <https://savehuntershill.files.wordpress.com/2016/01/socc-council-amalgamations-in-nsw-a-flawed-process-auspublaw-13-nov-17.pdf>

It is indeed a sad story of arrogance, incompetence, and lack of transparency, and a failure to respect and understand local communities and local democracy.

Those communities whose councils were forcibly merged are entitled to be heard by way of referendum. They want to **#DemergeNow** !

A Government that acts in this way does not deserve to govern.

SOCC 31 July 2018