



34% swing in Orange was forced council amalgamations – see the [SOCC Report](#) 29 Nov 16 and the NSW local government association’s media release [LGNSW](#) 13 Nov 16.



*Some of the SOCC signs at polling booths in the Orange By-election on 12 November 2016*

The case is overwhelming against forced amalgamations as shown in the expert literature and its failure when attempted in Australia and overseas. Keeping councils local and based on areas where there is an identity and where people feel a sense of belonging is critical.

Independent local councils cooperating in regional groupings for added efficiencies and strategic capacity was unanimously supported by the NSW Parliament’s Upper House Inquiry into Local Government - see [report](#) Oct 2015. Forced amalgamations were not.

All members of the NSW Parliament need to stand up against forced council amalgamations within their parties and in the public arena. To date the following political parties have done this and have also committed to support de-amalgamation of councils forcibly merged – The Labor Party, The Greens Party, The Christian Democratic Party and The Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party.

It is the Liberal/National Party that is not listening to the community or to the overwhelming evidence that is readily available against forced amalgamations.

**SOCC calls upon every Liberal Party and National Party member of the NSW Parliament to stand up and oppose forced council amalgamations both within the Party and in the public arena. Forced amalgamations, merger proposals before the courts and the hated policy – must all be withdrawn now.**

The campaign to stop forced council amalgamations has the massive support of very angry communities right across NSW as shown in the Orange By-election. This will continue and increase in intensity until the government is thrown out of office in 2019 or withdraws.

We call upon you to act decisively now. There is a better way – that alternative is contained in the recommendations of the Parliamentary Inquiry.

Kind regards,

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