

Forced amalgamations will replace Local Democracy with Baird Administrators

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HUNTERS HILL HAPPENINGS with Mayor RICHARD QUINN



ARE YOU aware of the detail of how our local area will be governed, should our legal action be unsuccessful and a forced amalgamation proceed?

Upon recommendation from the NSW Government, a formal Proclamation by the NSW Governor will announce the dissolution of Hunters Hill, Ryde and Lane Cove Councils and the appointment of one Baird Government-selected Administrator to replace the existing 28 democratically elected councillors across the three council areas.

This Administrator will act as 'the Council' until the local government elections that are now scheduled for September 2017. The Administrator can invite community members, such as any of the current democratically elected councillors, to act in an advisory capacity but is not obliged to do so.

All matters for approval by the new merged Council, including any development plans or development applications, will ultimately be determined by the Administrator until the election of a new Council in September 2017.

Effectively, we will have one person, the Administrator, with the delegated power to make decisions on all issues, including major planning and development, in a new local government area with a population of more than 160,000.

I remain seriously concerned about this significant loss of local democracy.