

GLADYS, YOU GOT IT WRONG - WE WANT OUR COUNCILS BACK!

Premier Gladys Berejiklian at a media conference held on 27 July 2017 announced the withdrawal of forced merger proposals for city councils that were fighting the Government in court. Forced mergers for country councils in court had been withdrawn in February.

This media conference and the one held shortly after by Save Our Councils Coalition (SOCC) were covered by all TV stations, including 9NEWS and Ten NEWS.



Save Our Councils Coalition (SOCC) media conference 27 July 2017 – 9NEWS

The Liberal/National Party's vicious attack upon local democracy is strongly opposed by all other political parties and by local communities across NSW. It has caused considerable angst and huge costs, and resulted in many councils being forcibly merged who had not gone to court. They want their councils back.

In her media conference Gladys Berejiklian says: "Perhaps we should have listened earlier on in the process." "On this issue (forced council mergers), where it affects every single person in NSW, we could have done a much better job." "Every single person who sat around the cabinet table needs to bear responsibility, including myself."

The SOCC media conference contains a number of clear messages for Gladys Berejiklian: "The Government has wasted hundreds of millions of dollars of the communities' money in this appalling forced amalgamations mess." "Communities are always stronger than out of touch State Government." For councils saved from being merged – "This is a great victory for those communities across NSW." From communities that have had their local councils forcibly merged – "It doesn't matter how long it takes, we will de-merge!"

The community response to the Berejiklian Government is clear. Having stuffed up – having got it wrong, take responsibility for what you have done.

You must give local communities, who have had their councils forcibly merged without a say, a referendum as to whether they want their councils back.

Justice and fairness demands that this is the least that you can do. But you must do it NOW!



SOCC spokesman Phil Jenkyn OAM speaking at media conference 27 July 2017 – Ten NEWS

For 9NEWS coverage:

<https://www.9news.com.au/national/2017/07/27/20/15/chris-o-keefe-premier-had-no-choice-but-to-abandon-council-amalgamations>

For Ten News:

https://www.facebook.com/tennewssydney/videos/10155346382315259/?hc_ref=ART7EyZRkIxfWqWF-iCHEX2KiKu3oly5v8rhV9_ZtOFYZI3OGajam7N_pRSfhgNzeeE

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