

GOVT ANNOUNCED NOT PROCEEDING WITH CITY MERGERS ONE YEAR AGO

27 JULY 2017

The NSW Government announced on Thursday 27 July 2017 that the following 14 proposed forced mergers that were being challenged in court would not proceed – Hunters Hill, Lane Cove and Ryde; Mosman, North Sydney and Willoughby; Woollahra, Waverley and Randwick; Strathfield, Canada Bay and Burwood; Ku-ring-gai and Hornsby.



SOCC spokesman Phil Jenkyn at media conference in the Domain 27 July 2017

This followed a lengthy and vigorous campaign against forced mergers led by Save Our Councils Coalition (SOCC), resulting in the resignation of Premier Baird, Deputy Premier Grant and Minister Toole and a huge loss of political support as evidenced in the Orange By-election.

The above Councils received formal notification of the withdrawal from the relevant Minister by letter on Monday 31 July 2017. This was the same day that the NSW Court of Appeal delivered judgments that ordered or confirmed that the above five mergers involving the 14 councils could not legally proceed.

On 14 February 2017 the Government had already announced that it would not proceed against the following 13 country and regional councils – Cabonne, Blayney Shire, Orange City, Oberon, Bathurst Regional, Dungog, Maitland, Uralla, Walcha, Shellharbour City, Wollongong City, Newcastle and Port Stephens.

This has been an enormous victory for those communities whose councils went to court challenging the process, however it has still left many good councils forcibly merged against the wishes of their communities.

These communities want to demerge, and to [#DemergeNow](#)

See ABC News 27 July 2017 <https://savehuntershill.files.wordpress.com/2016/01/socc-mayors-fight-for-costs-after-govts-merger-backflip-abc-news-27-july-2017.pdf>

SOCC 27 July 2018