

HUNTERS HILL

Appeal result months off

Court decision on council's battle against merger held up by other legal actions

John Besley

IT COULD be several months before the result of Hunters Hill Council's latest appeal against a forced merger with Ryde and Lane Cove is known.

The appeal was heard in the NSW Court of Appeal last week, but a decision could be delayed for several months due to a number of ongoing legal actions by

other councils fighting amalgamation, such as North Sydney and Mosman.

Hunters Hill's appeal was heard a week after Ku-ring-gai's case against its merger with Hornsby was upheld.

Judges Robert Macfarlan and John Basten, who also heard Hunters Hill's case, ruled that Ku-ring-gai was denied procedural fairness in part due to a report by accountancy firm KPMG

being withheld from the public. Third judge Ronald Sackville dissented.

As the grounds of appeal in Hunters Hill's case share similarities with Ku-ring-gai, Phil Jenkyn from the Save Our Councils Coalition (pictured) said he was "quietly confident" about success.

"The judges are the same and the grounds of appeal are mostly the same" Mr



Save Our Councils Phil Jenkyn and Hunters Hill Mayor Richard Quinn. Picture: John Appleyard

Jenkyn said. "It was an obvious decision.

"Community anger will continue to grow and result in a landslide loss in 2019 for the Berejiklian Government unless it now withdraws its despised and hated forced council amalgamations."

Hunters Hill Mayor Richard Quinn (pictured) concurred, saying: "We eagerly await the outcome of our hearing."