

Lane Cove vows to go to High Court to prevent forced merger with Ryde!

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BY OUR CIVIC ROUNDSMAN

Lane Cove Council could pursue a High Court challenge against the process used by the State Government to force it to merge with Hunters Hill and Ryde.



WE WANT TO STAND ALONE! Lane Cove Mayor Deborah Hutchens is pictured at a recent rally against the Berejiklian Government's proposed forced mergers. TWT on-the-spot PHOTO

The Council last week passed a motion by five votes to three to reserve an option to appeal to the High Court although Mayor Deborah Hutchens told The Weekly Times such action depends on the success or failure of the Council's current court appeal.

The successful Council motion states:

"That Council, in conjunction with our legal Counsel, immediately commence the preparation of a draft application to the High Court seeking special leave to appeal, in case our current Supreme Court action is unsuccessful.

"That should Council lose its current appeal in the Supreme Court or any aspect thereof and if, in the opinion of our legal Counsel an application to the High Court to overturn that decision has 'reasonable prospects' of success, then the General

Manager is directed to seek special leave to appeal to the High Court and to obtain injunctions as necessary to allow the matter to proceed to hearing.”

The successful motion also gives the General Manager delegated authority to undertake any of the requirements to proceed as directed.

The General Manager was also given authority to liaise with Hunters Hill and Ryde Councils on questions that could be asked if a poll of ratepayers on the forced mergers issue is held to coincide with the September 9 Local Government elections.

“The Poll questions could be of the form:

“Do you want Lane Cove to amalgamate with Hunters Hill and Ryde Councils?” and “Should Lane Cove become amalgamated with Hunters Hill and Ryde Councils, would you support the de-amalgamation of Lane Cove if this choice was available to you?”

Mayor Hutchens hopes a High Court Appeal will not be necessary.

“It hangs on the legal advice we get on our appeal and we don’t take action if we don’t have to,” Mayor Hutchens said.

“We haven’t heard a thing yet about our appeal so speculation about a High Court challenge is premature.

“Sure we’ve got to be prepared and as far as I’m concerned our position on the proposed forced merger hasn’t changed, we want to stand alone.”

<http://www.weeklytimes.com.au/lane-cove-vows-to-go-to-high-court-to-prevent-forced-merger-with-ryde/>