

Member of the NSW Parliament:

Address:

Date: 7 December 2016

RE: SOCC - A CALL FOR ACTION ON FORCED COUNCIL AMALGAMATIONS

We refer to our email sent 7 December titled 'SOCC - A Call for Action'. That email contains a number of links to reports that are mentioned in this letter and additional information.

Save Our Councils Coalition (SOCC) is a non-party political state-wide coalition of community groups, individuals and councillors that is strongly against forced council amalgamations.

There is widespread community opposition and anger across NSW on this issue. The NSW Government has no mandate for its forced merger proposals announced 18 Dec 15.

The Premier's and the Government's fortunes dramatically fell after the December announcement and the destruction of over 40 local councils in May 2016. Local government elections in September saw big swings against the Government [SOCC Report](#) 10 Oct 16. The Orange By-election on 12 November 2016 saw a massive 34% swing [SOCC Report](#) 29 Nov 16.

The case is overwhelming against forced amalgamations as shown in the expert literature and its failure when attempted in Australia and overseas. Keeping councils local and based on areas where there is an identity and where people feel a sense of belonging is critical.

The Liberal/National Party has not been listening to the community or to the overwhelming evidence that is readily available.

SOCC calls upon every Liberal Party and National Party member of the NSW Parliament to stand up and oppose forced council amalgamations both within the Party and in the public arena. Forced amalgamations, merger proposals before the courts and the hated policy – must all be withdrawn now.

The campaign to stop forced council amalgamations has the massive support of very angry communities right across NSW as shown in the Orange By-election. This will continue and increase in intensity until the government either loses office in 2019 or withdraws.

We call upon you to act decisively now. There is a better way – that alternative is contained in the recommendations of the Parliamentary Upper House Inquiry [report](#) October 2015.

Kind regards,

Carolyn Corrigan President
Phil Jenkyn OAM Spokesman
Save Our Councils Coalition (SOCC)
<https://www.facebook.com/saveourcouncils>



Contact: Carolyn Corrigan Email: cyec6@hotmail.com Mob: 0413 055 593