



MEDIA RELEASE 20 Oct 2017

BEREJKLIAN GOVT DECLARES WAR ON NSW COMMUNITIES OVER FORCED MERGERS

The Berejiklian Liberal/National Government today rejected a Bill in the Lower House of the Parliament that would have allowed it to 'put to bed' its hated and despised forced council amalgamations policy.

In voting down the Local Government Amendment (Amalgamation Referendums) Bill 2017 in the Legislative Assembly, the Government has refused to allow communities forcibly amalgamated in the city and the bush to have a say on whether they wanted their council back.

"The Berejiklian Government has clearly shown that they fear the people and are not prepared to listen to communities" says Phil Jenkyn spokesman for Save Our Councils Coalition (SOCC). "They have made it clear that their policy of forced council amalgamations continues."

"You would think that they might have learnt something from the recent by-elections in the city and country where there have been massive swings against them in areas where forced mergers were a major issue – Manly 24%, North Shore 15%, Cootamundra 20% and Murray 15%," Jenkyn added.

"It is clear that this Government has declared war on local communities," says SOCC President Brian Halstead. "Save Our Councils will now fight with increased determination to see that this Government is thrown out at the next State election. It does not properly represent communities, it is arrogant and does not listen."

"All political parties and independents, except the Liberal/National Party, supported the Bill. They also support SOCCs principles of no forced amalgamations, keeping local government truly local and fair and proper referendums," Halstead says. "If a Government ignores the will of the people, it is doomed to failure."

SOCC Contacts: Brian Halstead President 0414 281 604: Phil Jenkyn Spokesman 0422 442 677: Will Tuck Media 0403 673 421



DEMOCRACY DENIED OVER REFERENDUMS BILL – PHIL DONATO video 19 sec.

Phil Donato MP member for Orange (Shooters, Fishers & Farmers Party) speaking at SOCC media conference 19 Oct 2017, after the Government voted down their ‘Amalgamation Referendums’ Bill – “What we saw today was democracy being denied. Democracy for the people to have a vote on their local council – to give the local people an opportunity to vote on whether they wished to be amalgamated or not.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2mY9dd4RzwY>



LABOR COMMITS TO DEMERGERS – PETER PRIMROSE video 30 sec.

Peter Primrose Labor Shadow Minister for Local Government speaking at SOCC media conference 19 Oct 2017, after the Government voted down the ‘Amalgamation Referendums’ Bill – “The next State Labor Government will legislate to allow communities to voluntarily demerge - that is an iron-clad, absolute guarantee.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tzxc7aQGvFI>



COMMUNITIES DECLARE WAR ON NSW GOVERNMENT – PHIL JENKYN video 15 sec.
Phil Jenkyn OAM Save Our Councils Coalition speaking at media conference 19 Oct 2017, after the Government voted down the ‘Amalgamation Referendums’ Bill – “Communities have declared war on this government, and the communities will win.”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EX59jzqX7rk>



“HOW DOES THE COMMUNITY FEEL TODAY?” – A QUESTION TO PHIL JENKYN video 1 min.
Phil Jenkyn OAM Save Our Councils Coalition answering a question at SOCC media conference 19 Oct 2017, after the Government voted down the ‘Amalgamation Referendums’ Bill – “From a community perspective it is pretty devastating the Government has declared war today on communities – we have just declared war on them – and they will be thrown out by communities in 2019.”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EDQPv5poXSI>