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COALITION WIPE OUT 2019

Massive swings against the Liberal Party in the by-elections for North Shore, Manly and Gosford starkly reveal a government and a Premier that have not only lost their way but have failed the new leader's first promise "to listen to the people."

Save our Councils Coalition (SOCC) agrees with commentators that the 25 percent first preference swings in Manly and 17 percent in North Shore are not only massive and in Liberal heartland, but are self-inflicted body blows from a forced amalgamations agenda - one contrary to the will of the people.

Election analyst Antony Green in his commentary on the by-elections states that the current angst over council amalgamations is "certainly very toxic for the Government" at the moment.

"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," SOCC spokesman Phil Jenkyn said.

"Because of the Premier's failure to 'listen to the people', from her failure to understand how communities work and from the spin that continues to ooze from the Government there is a loss of trust and support for the Liberal Party.

"The Premier promised, in this by-election, to build a tunnel under the Spit and Mosman to solve the traffic woes of the Northern Beaches. If that project is not substantially started by the end of 2018, then there is absolutely no doubt that the Liberals will lose both Manly and North Shore in 2019," he says.

The angst that is felt in the City over forced council amalgamations is equally felt in the country where many councils were forcibly merged including Gundagai, Tumbarumba and Guyra. On by-election day a large anti Liberal/National bus campaign took place when residents from these country areas combined in a 'Put Libs Last' campaign by manning polling booths and driving the bus throughout the North Shore electorate. (See photos attached)

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