

# Our part in Nats' downfall: Mosman protesters join Orange battle

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**THE Save Our Councils Coalition has welcomed the unprecedented swing against the NSW Nationals in the Orange by-election last Saturday.**



*Karen Pensabene and Cr Carolyn Corrigan from Save Our Councils Coalition (SOCC) at a polling booth during the Orange By-election.*

The anti-council mergers lobby group has hailed the result as a win for what it says is the electorate's wide opposition against forced mergers.

The State Government wants to forcibly merge Orange City, Blayney Shire and Cabonne councils. The councils have challenged the Government in the courts.

Nationals MP Scott Barrett suffered a swing of about 34 per cent against him.

The NSW Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party's Philip Donato looms as the potential winner after he received a swing of more than 23 per cent in his favour.

The two-candidate preferred count on the NSW Electoral Commission website earlier this week showed a difference of about half a per cent between the two candidates' total votes.

Mosman members of the SOCC protested against forced amalgamations at the Orange by-election and helped to man seven booths.

SOCC president Carolyn Corrigan, who is also a Mosman councillor, said campaigners drove hundreds of kilometres to Orange to show their support.

"Our message was 'Put Nats last' because the National Party is in favour of forced amalgamations and of course Mosman is still fighting its merger in the courts," Cr Corrigan said.

"We worked to make our point, manning the pre-polling and election booths from 8am to 6pm on election day.

"Our posters were handpainted and covered in Glad Wrap to avoid the paint running, because overnight on Friday a huge rainstorm swept through. The storm held off but there was nothing holding back the political storm."

Anti-merger campaigners also travelled from North Sydney, Strathfield, Hunters Hill, Randwick, Woollahra and several regional towns.