

People Power Bill before Parliament Thursday 3 August

The Weekly Times August 2, 2017

A Bill to ensure people have a say on council mergers in future will be put before the Legislative Assembly tomorrow (Thursday) morning.



Mayor Richard Quinn



NSW Parliament



Phil Jenkyn

Titled the “Referendums Bill”, it was recently passed in the Legislative Council with support from all parties except the Liberal Party.

Mayor Quinn has called on the NSW Government to enshrine in legislation the requirement for a poll or plebiscite in any future merger proposals by supporting the Referendums Bill.

He said that from day one in this whole debate we have argued that forced mergers should not proceed and that communities have a direct say in how they are governed.

Any merger proposal must have the majority support of the local community, Mayor Quinn said. Communities expect and demand the opportunity to have a direct say by way of poll or plebiscite and not some disingenuous process masking as consultation that is a stitch up from the start.

Local Save Our Councils Coalition spokesman Phil Jenkyn OAM said he hoped the Bill will give a voice to merged communities where local MPs were silent.

“Many of these communities were sold out by their local Liberal or Nationals MPs and told not to fight the merger and not to go to court as it was too expensive,” he said yesterday.

<http://www.weeklytimes.com.au/people-power-bill-before-parliament-tomorrow/>