

Power of the People on Show at Orange By-Election

Local Government NSW 13 November 2016

Historic swings against the NSW National Party in the Orange by-election are yet another clear example of people power, with voters sending a clear message to the NSW Government on forced council amalgamations, Local Government NSW said today.



Local Government NSW (LGNSW) President Keith Rhoades called on Premier Mike Baird to finally heed the deep community anger at forced council amalgamations.

“LGNSW has said all along that local government is about local democracy and local representation,” Clr Rhoades said.

“Now the people have spoken loud and clear: the community wants to keep local government local.

“Mike Baird and Paul Toole have **never** had a mandate to force council amalgamations, and this result is proof.

“The Government needs to rethink its stance on forced amalgamations, just as it did on the greyhound ban, and rule out any further forced amalgamations.”

Clr Rhoades was speaking after reported swings of up to 60% against the National Party in some booths in the formerly safe seat of Orange.



Labor was returned comfortably in Wollongong and Canterbury.

Counting was continuing on Sunday, but pundits said there was a strong possibility that Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party candidate Philip Donato, who has campaigned against forced amalgamations, would be elected on Labor preferences in Orange.

“These are hugely significant results, and demonstrate very clearly that communities will not tolerate a Government that doesn’t respect their right to have a say in their day-to-day lives,” Clr Rhoades said.

“This massive repudiation of forced amalgamations comes hot on the heels of the September 10 local government elections, where voters of stand-alone councils sent an equally clear ‘back off’ message to the Liberal/National Government.

“Now’s the time for Mike Baird and Paul Toole to show the community that they are listening, and put an end to this crash or crash-through forced amalgamation approach.”

<http://lgnsw.org.au/news/media-release/media-release-power-people-show-orange-election>