

Letter to the editor of the Western Advocate

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TIMING: A decision on a crucial appeal against the Mike Baird Government's forced merger of councils was made in the days leading up to Christmas, surprising many.

About time Premier stopped using Christmas as cover

THE public are asking is it possible that the timing of the release of the decision of the Court of Appeal amalgamation case of Woollahra Council and the Baird Government just one working day before Christmas was subject to political pressure?

Last year the Premier, on December 18, also announced a forced amalgamation policy release, again using Christmas as a cover-up.

This is all becoming a cynical and devious use of Christmas time, a period that should be avoided at all costs to ensure that the accusation of political interference cannot be levelled.

The public rightly also asks why the judiciary cannot see that the date of release is totally inappropriate, especially as the courts are no longer sitting.

The public are not mugs and they suspect the hand of the Baird Government is all over this timing decision.

NSW residents see timing being used to minimise public knowledge and political fallout and to attempt to weaken its effects.

The decision cuts out the use and influence of local and statewide media just prior to the biggest holiday of the year.

This disgusting use of timing can be seen as an outrageous application of political power designed to influence and avoid public fury and media scrutiny.

The Premier and his band of merry men should hide their heads in shame.

Come Christmas Day, the toast of many of us was: "It worked in Orange, now let it work in all the many councils being forced to amalgamate."

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