

**FORCED MERGERS FIRST ANNIVERSARY: WITHDRAW NOW!**

# Mass Rally to Save Democracy This Friday at Parliament House



**Ratepayers and citizens in Canada Bay, Hunters Hill, Lane Cove and Ryde have been urged to protest outside NSW Parliament on Friday 12 May against the proposed forced mergers of their historic councils and to defend local democracy.**

Friday's protest titled "Withdraw Now" will be held at the Tree of Knowledge in the Domain, behind Parliament House at 1pm and marks the first anniversary of the forced mergers announcement.

"This is going to be big and it is an important day for our community because it will be one year to the day since the then Premier Baird announced without a mandate the forced amalgamation of our local councils," Save Hunters Hill Municipality spokesman Phil Jenkyn OAM said.

"The outcome of Woollahra Council's application for leave in the High Court to challenge its forced merger will also be announced on Friday and anyone who cares about local democracy should come to this important protest rally."

Speakers at the rally will include Mr Jenkyn, former Ku-ring-gai Mayor Cheryl Szatow, The Greens Leader David Shoebridge, Orange MP Phil Donato, Labor's Shadow Minister for Local Government Peter Primrose, Christian Democrats Leader The Rev Fred Nile and speakers representing the Save Our Council's Coalition.

"The community has turned against the Government over this issue as shown in the recent by-elections in Orange, North Shore, Manly and Gosford," Mr Jenkyn said.

<http://www.weeklytimes.com.au/forced-mergers-first-anniversary-withdraw-now/>