

‘Splittwater’ supporters take to Macquarie St to urge the return of Pittwater Council

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Manly Daily Jim O’Rourke

A PLAN to reinstate Pittwater council was handed to the State Government after a noisy rally outside Parliament House today.



The Green’s local government spokesman David Shoebridge (centre) was at a rally outside NSW Parliament House held by supporters of a move to split Pittwater from Northern Beaches Council.

The Protect Pittwater Association met advisers to Local Government Minister Gabrielle Upton to deliver a proposal to demerge Northern Beaches Council.

Organisers of the Pittwater push gave the Minister’s office 2500 signatures of people supporting the move.

About 80 Pittwater protesters attended the demerger rally in Macquarie St.

The proposal, initiated under the Local Government Act, calls for Pittwater Council to be immediately reconstituted within its original boundaries.

Association president Bob Grace said the rally was organised to coincide with the first sitting day of Parliament after the second anniversary of the northern beaches' council amalgamation.



The rally called on the State Government to reinstate Pittwater Council.

About 50 of the protesters travelled to the rally on a chartered “people’s bus”.

“We will not let the government forget its betrayal of the people when it broke its promise of ‘no forced amalgamations’ on May 12, 2016,” Mr Grace, a former Pittwater councillor, said.

Before the meeting with the Minister’s advisers, the bring back Pittwater Council supporters, many wearing “Splittwater” T-shirts, protested on Macquarie St, calling on Premier Gladys Berejiklian to step in and demerge the council.

NSW MPs, including Labor’s local government spokesman Peter Primrose, the Greens David Shoebridge and Rev. Fred Nile spoke at the hour-long rally.

Mayor Michael Regan has said Pittwater residents would benefit from the council merger with more spending on infrastructure flowing into their area.

Ms Upton’s office said there were no plans to demerge the council.

<https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/manly-daily/splittwater-supporters-take-to-macquarie-st-to-urge-the-return-of-pittwater-council/news-story/08911c1bf104308eed2d43e0d056abb1>



Protect Pittwater Association president speaks at the rally outside Parliament House.