



NATIONAL PARTY FINALLY LISTENING TO THE PEOPLE ON FORCED AMALGAMATIONS – PAUL TOOLE MUST NOW RESIGN

“The NSW National Party has been hit by a political tsunami with news today that their Leader, Troy Grant, has resigned as leader and Adrian Piccoli, the Deputy Leader, also plans to step down at the party meeting tomorrow”, says Save Our Councils Coalition President Carolyn Corrigan.

“Mr Piccoli emphatically stated that the trouble was not with the leadership of Troy Grant. This parting shot clearly points the gun at Premier Mike Baird”, says SOCC President Carolyn Corrigan. “Baird’s autocratic and elitist Macquarie Street contempt for communities is gob-smacking and has just been authenticated by his political partners”, says Ms Corrigan.

“Communities all over NSW are sick and tired of hearing Baird say he is listening, when nothing changes”, says Ms Corrigan. “Clearly, Baird hasn’t been listening to his National Party colleagues either.”

“Local communities want local government. Most communities across NSW reject the forced amalgamation of their councils and SOCC is asking for a referendum in each council area, so the people can have their say on this issue.”

“Communities feel betrayed by the Liberal and National Party over the issue of forced, undemocratic council amalgamations. The Baird/Grant Government had no mandate to push through this deeply unpopular agenda and it looks like Troy Grant is the first political casualty” says Ms Corrigan.

“Communities all over NSW are white hot with rage and I expect this political bloodbath to continue”, says Ms Corrigan.

“Minister Paul Toole must now also resign”, says SOCC spokesperson Phil Jenkyn. “Minister Toole promised there would be no forced council amalgamations and then he signed the death warrant on 42 councils – and there are other councils he is waiting to kill off. The only thing stopping him is expensive legal battles that councils were forced to instigate to save their local communities.”

“Troy Grant’s words of resignation to Premier Mike Baird were unmistakable”, says SOCC spokesperson Phil Jenkyn. “Troy Grant said, ‘The message to Macquarie Street is clear; Government is there to support communities’ ”.

Contacts: SOCC President Carolyn Corrigan and Spokesman Phil Jenkyn