

# Woollahra Council lodges application to appeal merger decision in the High Court

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Woollahra Council's battle to prevent a merger looks destined for the High Court after lawyers lodged an application for an appeal

**WOOLLAHRA COUNCIL has filed an application for a High Court appeal against the planned merger with Waverley and Randwick.**

Woollahra Mayor Toni Zeltzer confirmed their lawyers had lodged the application on Friday afternoon, in the wake of the Court of Appeal's [recent dismissal](#) of the council's legal challenge against the merger.

The High Court, which will now decide whether to grant permission for the appeal, is the council's last hope to prevent the amalgamation.

The full council will still have to meet to decide whether to push ahead with the appeal case if it is approved.



*Mayor Toni Zeltzer has defended the council's expenditure of ratepayers money on the fight to prevent a merger. Picture: Craig Wilson*

“After consulting with our legal team, we believe there are good grounds for a High Court appeal,” Cr Zeltzer said.

“We are extremely disappointed that we have to continue to spend public money on legal bills, but we want to be absolutely sure we’ve done everything within our power to protect the Woollahra community against this merger.”

The council has already spent about \$800,000 of ratepayers’ money fighting the merger.

Cr Zeltzer maintains this is a drop in the ocean compared to the rate rises which Woollahra residents will “inevitably” be hit with under an eastern suburbs super council.

“There are no discernible benefits for the Woollahra community under the proposed merger — only costs — so we are not prepared to give up the fight on behalf of our community,” she said.

“We hope (Local Government Minister Paul Toole) will refrain from making any proclamation regarding Woollahra before the matter can be considered by the High Court.”

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/wentworth-courier/woollahra-council-lodges-application-to-appeal-merger-decision-in-the-high-court/news-story/2be4f61026e8152ca6537781efad06a2>