

Thursday 27 July 2017

## **RYDE APPLAUDS BACKFLIP ON FORCED MERGER**

City of Ryde Mayor, Clr Bill Pickering, said the State Government's decision to abandon the forced amalgamation of Ryde, Hunters Hill and Lane Cove Councils is a welcome win for common sense and democracy.

The Mayor's comment follows the announcement by the Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, that the forged mergers of the metropolitan councils challenging the decision in court have been abandoned. The decision follows an earlier resolution by the State Government not to pursue forced amalgamation of regional councils.

Mayor Pickering said: "The past two years have been a rollercoaster of uncertainty with the on-again/off-again forced amalgamations.

"Councils and the community have suffered from this long and divisive campaign and I want to thank my fellow Councillors and Council staff for their steadfast support of our right to stand alone and govern on behalf of the citizens of the City of Ryde.

"Eighty percent of Ryde residents opposed the forced amalgamation and made it quite clear that they want local representation on local matters and that bigger is not necessarily better.

"Now is the time to rebuild goodwill between the two levels of Government and to continue on with the job of serving our communities," Mayor Pickering said.

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