

Tuesday 20 October 2015

RYDE FINANCIALLY FIT – YET STILL SLATED FOR MERGER

The Mayor of the City of Ryde, Councillor Jerome Laxale, slammed the announcement by the State Government today that the City of Ryde is 'unfit' in relation to IPART's *Fit For The Future* assessment. Hunter's Hill and Lane Cove Councils were also deemed as 'unfit'.

Mayor Laxale will hold urgent discussions with the Mayors of both Hunter's Hill and Lane Cove Councils to discuss options in preparing each Council's response to today's announcement.

Mayor Laxale stated: "I am clearly disappointed and amazed with the State Government's response to declare that the City of Ryde is 'unfit'.

"Using the State Government's own criteria, we have met all three financial requirements. We are a financially fit council: yet Mike Baird is hell bent on merging Ryde into oblivion.

"It is shameful that the NSW Premier, Mike Baird is pushing through with a plan that has next to no support in our community."

Mayor Laxale continued: "Our residents have clearly shown their preference against amalgamation, demonstrated by their 92% level of support of our JRA as their first or second preference. This is a very clear mandate.

"Despite the talk of consultation and community representation, it is clear that Mike Baird went into this process with a predetermined outcome.

"Unlike the Premier, I want to ensure that we represent our community, that's why I'll be seeking their input on the way forward. We have until 18 November 2015 to respond, and I'll ensure that our citizens are at the front and centre of our decision making.

"I'll also be writing to local MP's seeking their support. After all, our loyalty is to our community, not to the Premier."

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