

Monday 18 January 2016

## **OUT-DATED FACTS AND FIGURES UNDERPIN BAIRD'S MERGER PROPOSAL FOR RYDE**

The Mayor of the City of Ryde, Cllr Jerome Laxale, has questioned the integrity of Premier Mike Baird's intention to forcibly amalgamate Ryde days after the formal Merger Proposal was released.

Cllr Laxale identified a number of deficiencies in the document that underpins the Government's case for forced amalgamations.

"The Government's own document use figures that are out of date. Instead of showing operating surpluses, they are showing deficits for the City of Ryde. How can the Boundaries Commission make a fair determination when they have got them so wrong?"

"Furthermore, the government has predicted a \$61 million benefit from a merged entity without factoring in the real costs of a merger, and has not provided any detail on how this figure can be achieved.

"This style of voodoo economics is being used by a Premier that is intent on helping developers rather than standing up for local communities."

While the Minister for Local Government states that four years of intensive consultation has taken place, the Merger Proposal document does not reflect any information on the results of our own community consultation that we have undertaken throughout 2015, Mayor Laxale stated.

"Good Governments listen. The City of Ryde has strived to represent our community's view on amalgamations. The feedback from our community has been strong and very consistent," Cllr Laxale stated.

"In 2015, 81% of the community told us they were opposed to forced amalgamation and later in the year, 92% supported the Joint Regional Authority option as their first and second preference over any amalgamation," the Mayor stated.

"Clearly local members Victor Dominello and Anthony Roberts are deliberately ignoring their own communities."

The Mayor is encouraging all members of the City of Ryde community to have their say on the proposed merger between Ryde, Hunters Hill and Lane Cove Councils by appearing at the Public Inquiry on Tuesday 2 February 2016 at Hunters Hill Sailing Club or by making a submission by 28 February 2016.

Members of the community wishing to attend the Public Inquiry are required to register at [www.councilboundaryreview.nsw.gov.au/proposals/hunters-hill-lane-cove-and-city-of-ryde-councils/#meetings](http://www.councilboundaryreview.nsw.gov.au/proposals/hunters-hill-lane-cove-and-city-of-ryde-councils/#meetings)

Also, further information can be accessed at [www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/proposedmerger](http://www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/proposedmerger)

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