

Tuesday 31 May 2016

MAYOR LAXALE CALLS FOR THE IMMEDIATE ABANDONMENT OF MERGER PLANS

The Mayor of the City of Ryde, Councillor Jerome Laxale, has called for the immediate abandonment of the merger proposal of the City of Ryde, Hunter's Hill and Lane Cove Councils.

Mayor Laxale stated "It has been proven once again today, through the debacle that Strathfield, Burwood and Canada Bay Councils are now facing, that the Premier cannot be trusted to run this State effectively. Day by day we are witnessing the outcome of a flawed and farcical process to forcibly amalgamate Councils.

Today proves that Mike Baird couldn't organise a chook raffle. Right now, the best thing Mike Baird can do is halt all pending mergers and put his Local Government Minister on permanent gardening leave".

Councillor Laxale also reiterated a number of deficiencies that underpinned the Government's case for forced amalgamations.

"This process is more chaotic than a Tupperware cupboard" Mayor Laxale stated.

The State Government's own documentation used figures that were out of date. Instead of showing operating surpluses, they are showing deficits for the City of Ryde.

In the Government's merger proposal it projects an ongoing deficit from 2014/2015 of up to \$5 million by 2024/2025, compared to Council's audited figures that show a surplus on average of \$4.5 million.

How can the State Government make determinations on mergers when they have it so horribly wrong?

It's all smoke, mirrors and voodoo economics.

Mayor Laxale is now calling on the Premier to immediately shelve plans for the merger of the City of Ryde, Hunter's Hill and Lane Cove Councils and stop this charade once and for all.