



---

## **Berejiklian backflip a win for NSW communities!**

**Dear SOCC Supporter / Councillor,**

Berejiklian's backflip last Thursday 27 July is a terrific victory for local democracy, but the battle is not yet over.

We had the country merger backflip, the Ku-ring-gai court victory, and big by-election swings; then Woollahra won leave to appeal, and now we have the metro merger backflip. However, many community councils remain under forced mergers against the wishes of their residents. The fight for local democracy will continue until NSW government policy is one of no forced amalgamations and giving communities a genuine say in any mergers, including those that have been forced upon them to date.

The Liberal MPs can show that this backflip was not just a pre-election face-saver by supporting the Referendums Bill that is coming down from the Upper House to The Legislative Assembly on Tuesday 1 August. This Bill legislates for no amalgamations without a plebiscite and includes options for de-mergers. Details can be

---

found [here](#).

If we don't fix the law to protect local democracy, it is entirely likely that, after the next election, any council could again be subject to a forced merger.

Actions that you and your community can take include:

- 1/ Communicate with your local member asking her/him to support their community and the Bill when it comes before the Parliament.
- 2/ In those councils spared on Thursday, ensure that council candidates' views on amalgamations are clear to the community.
- 3/ In the councils that have been forced to merge, support those community groups that are starting the de-merger process and those candidates that believe in the community having a say.

We will be providing support and suggestions for the above through our [SOCC Facebook page](#).

The community is winning this battle and will continue to do so.

for Brian Halstead and Karen Pensabene

on behalf of the Save Our Councils Coalition

28 July 2017

[nswlocalcouncils@gmail.com](mailto:nswlocalcouncils@gmail.com) || [www.facebook.com/saveourcouncils](http://www.facebook.com/saveourcouncils)

|| [0429 540 211](tel:0429540211) || [www.saveourcouncilsnsw.com](http://www.saveourcouncilsnsw.com)