

SAVE HUNTERS HILL MUNICIPALITY COALITION

A coalition of community and precinct groups and residents determined to save the historic Municipality of Hunters Hill
C/- 20 Avenue Road, Hunters Hill 2110 · Email: info@savehuntershill.org · Tel: 0405 637 811 · www.savehuntershill.org

The Hon. Donald Page, MP
Minister for Local Government
Level 33 Governor Macquarie Tower,
1 Farrer Place, Sydney NSW 2000
9 February 2013

Dear Minister,

Re: Amalgamation Threat to Hunters Hill

Hunters Hill Municipality is one of the oldest and most historic local government areas in the State (1861), retains its historic boundaries and is Australia's oldest surviving 'garden suburb'. It has a strong and close-knit community. It achieves economies of scale by appropriate outsourcing and by collaborating within a voluntary Regional Organisation of Councils (ROCs). The Council is well run and has the confidence of its community.

It has become clear to the Hunters Hill community, indeed to many communities in NSW, that the Government either now or in the immediate future may consider breaking its election promise of no forced council amalgamations. In an article in the Daily Telegraph on 4 December 2012, after an exclusive interview with the Minister, Hunters Hill was named as one of a number of councils under threat.

The *Save Hunters Hill Municipality Coalition* (SHHMC) was established in 2003 to fight the then attempt to amalgamate Hunters Hill with Ryde. That attempt was unsuccessful for very good reasons and our then website has been archived – [Website 2003 Battle](#). SHHMC was reactivated in December 2012 with two convenors and two coordinators for each of the eight precincts, has developed a new website www.savehuntershill.org and has adopted a number of actions and strategies.

The Hunters Hill Council and the Local State member have come out strongly as opposed to the amalgamation of Hunters Hill and in support of its community. The case for the retention of the independence of the Municipality is overwhelming, as can be seen from the attached 'Position Statement'. Also attached is a statement to Parliament by Anthony Roberts in 2003 and a recent press article.

Historic Councils like Hunters Hill, with their strong and close communities, should be valued and protected by Government. They play an important role in guarding both our built and natural heritage and in nurturing community values.

SHHMC wishes to meet with you as a matter of urgency. We feel that there is a basic failure shown by the Review Panel and others to date in understanding what it is that makes councils and communities like Hunters Hill so successful and why they need to be valued and preserved.

Can we suggest that such a meeting include our local State member and the Hunters Hill Mayor Richard Quinn.

This letter was emailed to your office at office@page.minister.nsw.gov.au on 9 February 2013 at 3.26pm and copy emails sent as below.

As SHHMC is an open and transparent community group pursuing the public interest this letter is a public document.

Kind regards,



Phil Jenkyn

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On behalf of Ross Williams Emeritus Mayor and Philip Jenkyn OAM
Save Hunters Hill Municipality Coalition (SHHMC) Co-convenors

Cc Ross Williams Email: roselina1@bigpond.com

Anthony Roberts MP Email: lanecove@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Mayor Richard Quinn Email: richardquinn@huntershill.nsw.gov.au

Attachments:

['Position Statement'](#) – Hunters Hill Threat of Amalgamation – December 2012

['Statement to Parliament by Anthony Roberts'](#) – 28 October 2003

['MP: Let's make Hunters Hill a National Treasure'](#) – The Weekly Times 19 December 2012