

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. Barry O'Farrell, MP
NSW Premier
Level 40 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place, Sydney NSW 2000
10 February 2013

Dear Premier,

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 That attempt was unsuccessful for very good reason and our then website has been archived – [Website 2003 Battle](#).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 has 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'.

We have met with local member Anthony Roberts MP and are meeting again on Friday 15 February 2013. He knows the community well and is as you know experienced in local government and the working of Regional Organisations of Councils (ROC's). We attach his statement to Parliament dated 28 October 2003 re the earlier attempt at amalgamation, and a recent interview with the local Weekly Times.

We are also seeking a meeting with the Minister for Local Government Don Page MP.

Historic Councils, with 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. Hunters Hill is one of the best examples of that in this State.

Councils exist to serve and protect their local communities, not to be the servant of State Governments. It is important for State Governments to respect local government and communities as equals and to partner with them, not seek to dominate and control them. Forced amalgamations in Victoria and in more recent times Queensland were a failure. They seriously affected communities and were a material cause in the fall of both the Kennett and Bligh Governments.

We call upon the State Government to protect and preserve the historic Municipality of Hunters Hill, to work with its community, and pass legislation to ensure that the repeated threat to its independence and integrity and its local democracy, is forever removed. The community can then partner with the Government in preserving its history, and its cultural, natural and community values for future generations.

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

The letter was emailed to office@premier.nsw.gov.au on 10 February 2013 at 8.35pm with copies sent to the local member Anthony Roberts MP and Mayor Richard Quinn, as indicated below.

The matter is urgent - the community is concerned and angry and seeks resolution now.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Phil Jenkyn', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Phil Jenkyn

Tel: 9817 2677 Mob: 0422 442 677 Email: jenkyn@internode.on.net

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