



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOKE WELCOMES DEPUTY PREMIER'S CALL TO END FORCED AMALGAMATIONS

Deputy Premier and National Party Leader John Barilaro has come out hard with an uncompromising stance on forced council amalgamations, linking the Coalition agreement with an end to forced council amalgamations in the regions. Clearly, Deputy Premier John Barilaro has not only listened but understood what communities have been telling him – which is what democracy is all about.

“This is indeed welcome and important news arising from Premier Baird’s resignation” said Kathy Cowley President of Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment Inc (FOKE) “Surveys have indicated up to 86% of Ku-ring-gai ratepayers are opposed to the forced amalgamation” said Kathy Cowley

“We request that our State Government members, Jonathan O’Dea MP and Alister Henkens SC MP, immediately give their visible support to the majority of Ku-ring-gai ratepayers and councillors, who are totally opposed to a forced merger, and call to an end to the undemocratic forced amalgamation with the Hornsby Shire,” said Kathy Cowley “It is in the public interest that they end the politics of supporting a controversial fallen Premier and his dictatorial unpopular policies, over the community that they are supposed to listen to, protect and represent,” Kathy Cowley said.

It’s time to let the citizens of NSW decide how they want to proceed – and if the Coalition Government is genuinely committed to a meaningful “re-set”, then actually listening to what the people want is a pretty good start. Metropolitan communities like Ku-ring-gai, Pittwater, Mosman, North Sydney, Lane Cove, Strathfield, Holroyd, Leichardt and Hunter’s Hill etc. are just as passionate as regional communities about a real and meaningful say in their neighbourhoods and their day-to-day lives.

For media comment, please call Kathy Cowley on 0431 158 880 or 9416 9007