

**MM-1                    MAYORAL MINUTE - LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
                                 AMALGAMATIONS**

**Department        Executive Services**

**Author Initials: AT**

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**REPORT**

As Council will be aware, the NSW State Liberal Government forced the merger of over 40 councils on 12 May.

The City of Canada Bay's proposed merger with Burwood and Strathfield was not proclaimed, at that time, due to legal action lodged by Strathfield Council.

As Councillors would be aware, the City of Canada Bay was joined into these proceedings on the basis that Council's legal rights might be directly affected by the orders sought.

Today, the State Government has been forced to withdraw their merger proposal, demonstrating the failings in the State Government's forced council amalgamation platform and highlights that councils like Canada Bay, are "fit for the future".

This is an embarrassing back down by the State Government and gives our community a reprieve, but we don't know for how long and certainly hope that this decision is not politically motivated.

While we don't have all the findings before us, we understand there were some serious flaws in the delegate, Richard Colley's, report, which may result in the State Government being forced to commence the Boundary Commission process again.

The State Government has requested the delegate revisit and resubmit his report.

There has been a lack of clear direction, by the State Government, from the beginning of this process. Our community are once again in an uncertain environment with no direction from the State Government and no communication about "what's next" from the Minister's office.

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. THAT given the outcome of the Land & Environment Court's decision today regarding Strathfield Council's challenge to the Minister's proposal to amalgamate the City of Canada Bay, Burwood and Strathfield, that Council reconfirm its preferred position to "stand-alone" and continue to take all necessary actions in the best long-term interests of our community.

2. THAT Council write to the Premier, Minister for Local Government, Member for Drummoyne, the Leader of the Opposition and again inform them of Council's position on the proposed amalgamation with Burwood and Strathfield councils.