

SAVE HUNTERS HILL MUNICIPALITY COALITION (SHMHC) COMMUNITY INFORMATION—3RD SEPTEMBER, 2003

THE COALITION

The Coalition consists of community, precinct groups and residents, determined to save historic Hunters Hill Municipality. It intends to work closely with the Council and Council staff on what is a real threat.

THE THREAT

- The State Government is seeking local government reform, and if appropriate, boundary changes.
- Ryde City Council on 26th August, resolved to submit two proposals for boundary changes to the Minister for Local Government, one of which proposes to take over more than half of the Municipality down to the overpass.
- Hunter's Hill Council has submitted to the Minister, that as a result of the heritage significance of the Municipality and its viability, present boundaries should remain.
- The Minister intends to send the Ryde City proposals to the Boundaries Commission. The Commission, following an inquiry, will report back to the Minister who shall determine the matter.

WHY WE SHOULD REMAIN A MUNICIPALITY

- Hunter's Hill Council is one of the earliest local government areas in New South Wales (1861), and the only one of the original councils to have essentially kept its boundaries.
- Hunters Hill is recognised as one of the most significant historic Municipalities in the nation. Its significance has been recognised by the National Trust since 1974, and it is on the register of the National Estate.
- The Municipality contains more heritage listed items per head of population than any other area in the State, and a number of significant natural areas including Boronia Park and Kelly's Bush.
- The historic boundaries of the two rivers, and Pittwater, Victoria and Punt Roads, remain today as our natural and relevant boundaries.
- The Council over time, in partnership with the community, has developed environmental and heritage controls through its Local Environmental Plan (LEP), Development Controls Plans (DCP's) and conservation areas. This has provided a level of protection, and experience and awareness of these issues by Council.
- The community interest and sense of belonging run right across the Municipality and beyond. This is evidenced by the large number of community and cultural groups, and the great spirit and determination of its residents.
- The Council is economically viable, has no debt and outsources a number of services. It also combines with its surrounding Councils including through the Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC), in seeking efficiency gains and economics of scale.
- Ryde City Council Proposal No. 2 seeks to take over 8,000 residents of Gladesville and Hunters Hill, and 43,000 residents from Parramatta and Hornsby Councils. Apart from minor adjustments by consent, no other Northern Council is seeking boundary changes, however they do seek reform through NSROC.

- The Gladesville commercial shopping precinct is Hunters Hill Municipality's major shopping area and provider of services to the community. Hunters Hill and Ryde Councils have already jointly produced studies and plans for that area and are at present committed to providing a new Master Plan. The community wants this process to continue.
- The Ryde City Council submission to the Minister is seriously flawed. It does not comprehend the heritage significance and community of interest that extends across the Municipality.
- Ryde City Council failed to consult with Hunter's Hill Council, its residents and indeed Ryde residents before making its proposal to the Minister.
- If the Ryde Council proposal is implemented, it would lead to the demise of the Hunters Hill Municipality. Residents transferred to Ryde would see an increase in rates resulting from the Ryde City Council current rate structure.
- The Hunters Hill community values accessibility to Councillors and Council staff flowing from the size of the Municipality.
- The heritage of Hunters Hill Municipality is best protected for future generations by preserving its Council and historic boundaries.
- At the referendum at the last Council election 80% of all residents voted "No" to any amalgamation.

WHAT WE CAN DO

- Put your name down on either a community or precinct group list – see contact below.
- Support the Coalition and the campaign with time, effort and money.
- Support the Council and its staff.
- Help gather wider community support both inside and outside the Municipality.
- Make written representations to the Government including the Minister for Local Government, and to all political parties.
- Donations are to be made to "Save Hunters Hill Municipality Coalition" and sent to the address below.

CONTACT:

Save Hunters Hill Municipality Coalition
 C/- 20 Avenue Road, Hunters Hill 2110
 Deborah Anschau
 Tel: 9816 2325; Fax: 9816 1074
 Email: anschau@netspace.net.au

Information is also available on the Council website: www.huntershill.nsw.gov.au

PHIL JENKYN
 ON BEHALF OF THE COALITION

3rd September, 2003