

Former Councillor Peter Epov

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COMMUNITY FIRST!



Media Release

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Call for Urgent Review of MidCoast Amalgamation.

Former Greater Taree City Councillor, Peter Epov, today called for an independent review of the MidCoast amalgamation saying that he has serious reservations about the success of the amalgamation experiment, and the ability of the new Council to effectively service the ratepayers and residents of the new Local Government Area.

Mr Epov said:

"An overwhelming majority of residents believe that the amalgamation experiment has been an abject failure!" I believe we need an immediate independent review of the amalgamation by a group of eminent local residents and not politicians, as a matter of urgency."

Mr Epov is also calling on the Administrator to introduce a public plebiscite on the amalgamation to be conducted concurrently with the Council Election in September, in order to democratically determine the community sentiment on the issue, once and for all!

Peter Epov said:

"I will be writing to the Premier of NSW, Ms Gladys Berejiklian and asking her to instruct the Administrator to include a public plebiscite on the question of the amalgamation at the Council Elections in September.

Should the NSW Government rejected this appeal, I will run for Council, and if elected, I will press for the establishment of an independent review of the amalgamation by a group of 'local eminent persons' and I shall also press for a public plebiscite.

I believe what we now have is no longer a 'local council' but a form of apathetic regional government, divorced from the community, driven with its own agenda and objectives. The amalgamation was imposed against the will of the people, and in light of the NSW Government's policy reversals on amalgamations in Sydney, the residents of the three former local Councils should also be entitled to a democratic right to have their say. Or, are we second rate citizens, yet again?

Many believe that an area of 10,000 square kilometres is simply unserviceable by this MidCoast Regional Government, and that MidCoast is totally out of touch with the 90,000 residents.

I have obtained a copy of the secret 'Community Satisfaction Survey' commission by the NSW Government, last year, that shows 52% of all MidCoast residents surveyed were dissatisfied with "decisions made in the interest of the community".

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