

Liberal MP calls for ALP policy clarity

SCOTT HOWLETT

COUNCILS would be cut from 41 to six if a Labor government is re-elected at the NSW State Election, Opposition Intergovernmental spokesman Chris Hartcher has warned.

Mr Hartcher, who is the Terrigal State Liberal MP, said the government needed to reveal which councils would be axed.

He was commenting on a report that Minister for Western Sydney David Borger had revealed there was a secret plan to amalgamate councils.

Hunters Hill Council, the smallest with an area of only six square kilometres, had fought off a number of attempts to amalgamate it with neighbouring local government areas.

Although small in size, its residents pay rates that far exceed the average.

Local Government Association president Keith Rhoades also criticised Mr Borger and reiterated the association's opposition to forced amalgamation.

In response to Mr Hartcher's comments, Mr Borger said: "Chris



SHOULD COUNCIL MERGE?

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needs to calm down.

"He is being deliberately hysterical.

"I have a long-held and public view - including when I was a mayor (of Parramatta) - that more councils should voluntarily consolidate. If councils wish to consider working more closely together, they are free to do so and should be encouraged to do so.

"The Minister for Local Government (Barbara Perry) has said on numerous times she is happy to consider any proposal from councils that lead to better services for the community."

Cr Rhoades said councils which wanted to discuss amalgamation should be "encouraged".

"But at no time do we endorse third party pressure being placed on them," Cr Rhoades said.

Shires Association president Bruce Miller said creating larger councils would distance local government from the communities they serve.



Taniele Gofers with some young Ugandans she met while working for an aid organisation earlier this year.

Taniele's pushing for solid Results

ROBERT KENNARD

TANIELE GOFERS is using her voice - not for shouting, rambling, or bickering, but for results.

The 25-year-old Beecroft resident is the leader of the Sydney City Results group, a grassroots organisation that aims to end global poverty.

Balancing an honours degree at the University of Sydney and her commitments to Results, Ms Gofers has been raising awareness for World Tuberculosis Day, tomorrow.

Although TB has been virtually eradicated from Australia, it continues to kill 1.7 million people every year.



THE TROUBLE WITH TB

- Tuberculosis is a bacterial infection that commonly affects the lungs.
- For people with HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis is the leading cause of death.
- 100,000 people die from TB each year in Indonesia.
- 500,000 new cases in Indonesia are reported every year.

Ms Gofers is lobbying the Australian Government to sponsor a program in Indonesia that will reduce the TB diagnosis time from 75 days to 100 minutes.

"Results may only be focusing on TB for a month, but this is a

global health problem that needs lasting community and political support," she said.

"It has been virtually left in the dark in comparison to malaria or HIV."

Results have already made headway in other areas, lobbying for government decisions to increase microfinancing aid to \$18 million and a \$75 million debt swap deal with Indonesia.

"We try to focus our efforts on a specific issue for a period of time," Ms Gofers said.

"There is a strength that comes when you speak on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves."

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NORTHERN SYDNEY REGIONAL ORGANISATION OF COUNCILS

Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC)

PUBLIC EXHIBITION
Draft NSROC Regional Sportsground Management Strategy

The Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) represents the joint interests of seven northern Sydney councils including Hornsby, Hunter's Hill, Ku-ring-gai, Lane Cove, North Sydney, Ryde and Willoughby.

NSROC, in consultation with the community, has been reviewing the management and provision of sportgrounds in the region. A Draft Regional Sportsground Management Strategy has been developed for further community comment.

Interested individuals and organisations are invited to make a written submission on the Draft Strategy. For further information and copies of the Draft Strategy go to website www.nsroc.org or contact the NSROC Secretariat on 9911 3651 or email lrldley@lanecove.nsw.gov.au

The closing date for comments is Monday, 4 April 2011.
Cl Nick Berman, President of NSROC and Mayor Hornsby Council.

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