



[Listen to this story](#)
[Requires [Microsoft Media Player](#)]

Rabbitohs fans devastated

PM - Friday, October 15, 1999 6:30

COMPERE: And Heather Stuart was at the South Sydney League's Club when the decision was announced. Devastated fans were still coming to grips with the ramifications.

UNIDENTIFIED: Look, ladies and gentlemen, will you please keep calm here. I know this is going to be very emotional but look, the NRL has took us out of the competition for the year 2000.

HEATHER STUART: South Sydney's George Piggins announced the news to a devastated group of fans at the club. The Board has ruled out a merger, choosing instead to rely on the courts as a last ditch attempt to reverse the dilemma. Fans were angry, and many cried.

UNIDENTIFIED: I've got my daughter over the corner crying. My 19 year old daughter. And NRL doesn't understand that what brings a family together and meshes a family together in society is Souths. They've got no idea. I mean they will tear apart the fabric of society. What they will do to the South Sydney district is beyond comprehension.

UNIDENTIFIED: Well, we'll be back. We haven't finished yet, not by a long shot.

UNIDENTIFIED: It's a sad day for the red and green. But one of these days - every dog has his day.

HEATHER STUART: You look really upset.

UNIDENTIFIED: I do. I do. My dad was a foundation member of this club. Now these things happen. I don't show it in crying or anything like that but I feel pretty cut up inside.

UNIDENTIFIED: My father died three years ago and that's what brings ... that's what ... that keeps me together with my father. And by killing Souths, it's like killing my father again.

They don't understand what Souths is all about. In 30 years' time possibly you could have the situation where ... in 30 years time, what is that? 2029. They'll say who's won the most Premierships, and it'll still be Souths. I mean they're going to look like absolute geese because Souths has still won more Premierships than anyone else in 20 years' time.

HEATHER STUART: South Sydney supporter, Andrew Denton, urged fans to take flowers to the Leagues club to mourn. He says if the court action fails, he'd rather see the Rabbitos fold than merge.

ANDREW DENTON: A merger is not a merger, it's a takeover. I think Souths should do the one thing that Rupert Murdoch can't stop and that's retire the colours as a lesson to all, because this will happen again, time and again, in Australia's history - not just in Ruby League but elsewhere - as a lesson to everyone that Rupert Murdoch can't buy everything.

COMPERE: Andrew Denton.

ABC ONLINE

[© 1999 Australian Broadcasting Corporation](#)