



NEW SOUTH WALES

David Campbell

Minister for Police
Minister for the Illawarra

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G0802349

26 JUN 2008

Mr Bruce Reyburn
PO Box 257
THIRROUL NSW 2515

Dear Mr Reyburn,

I refer to your recent correspondence regarding community representation in the Wollongong local government area in the absence of elected Councillors.

As you are aware the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) has been commissioned to investigate corruption allegations affecting Wollongong City Council. Part 1 of the report, issued on 4 March 2008, recommended that all civic offices in relation to the Council be removed. The Governor of NSW promptly proclaimed as such, and appointed three Administrators to the council.

Part 2 of the report, issued on 28 May 2008, recommended that consideration be given to the suspension of a development consent granted by the Council on 18 August 2005 for a proposed \$100 million development known as "Quattro" with a view to its revocation. This development is currently before the Land and Environment Court. If the council is not successful in court, Planning Minister Frank Sartor has promised to use his power to suspend the Quattro development. This case is still currently before the Land and Environment Court.

The third and final part of the report, containing all the Commission's other findings in relation to this investigation, will be released later this year.

The Minister for Local Government has indicated that he will wait for the final ICAC report into Wollongong City Council before making a decision on when local elections will next be held in the Wollongong local government area.

I have been advised that this final decision would be based on advice from the Administrators and the Department of Local Government, which would have to be satisfied that the underlying issues behind the council's sacking had been addressed.

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As Minister for the Illawarra I have a keen interest in the concerns of Illawarra residents. I am well aware that there are a number of Illawarra residents who are concerned about the restoration of elected officials in the Wollongong local government area.

I have met regularly with the appointed Administrators to raise the concerns of Illawarra residents and am committed to continuing these discussions during the entirety of the Administrator's presence.

I am aware that Wollongong City Council is currently reviewing its Community Engagement Framework. As part of this review I am aware that a number of public consultation sessions were undertaken across the Wollongong local government area in May 2008.

I understand that the revised framework intends on ensuring an appropriate policy regarding community engagement with the Administrators. I too look forward to the release of the new framework.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Campbell', written in a cursive style.

David Campbell
Minister for Police
Minister for the Illawarra