

Ex Q



PO Box 799, Bowral 2576
info@shchamber.com.au
www.shchamber.com.au

8th February 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

RE: Recruitment of General Manager - Wingecarribee Shire Council

The Southern Highlands Chamber of Commerce acknowledges Council is seeking to fill the position of General Manager currently occupied by Acting General Manager Mr. Barry Paull proceeding the departure of the Shire's General Manager, Ms. Ann Prendergast in July 2020.

The Chamber strongly opposes the appointment of a new General Manager by this current cohort of elected Councilors due to the imposition of a Performance Improvement Order on Council by the Minister of Local Government, the Hon. Shelley Hancock.

We are calling for the appointment of the General Manager to be deferred until after the Local Government election which is to be held on September 4, 2021. We believe that the recruitment of the new General Manager should involve an extensive national and international search to find the best candidate and that this process should be overseen by the newly elected Council.

The current short recruitment process, internally managed and overseen by a Council which is currently under a Performance Improvement Order is completely inappropriate and will serve incumbency, which the Chamber does not believe is in the best interest of the region or the business community.

The future new group of democratically elected Councilor should be afforded the opportunity to vote on a new General Manager that they can work with collaboratively and not one that has been involved with a Council under a Performance Improvement Order.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Samulski

Council and Government Liaison Director on behalf of the SHCCI Board
Southern Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Cc: Hon. Shelley Hancock Minister (Minister for Local Government), Mr. Nathaniel Smith MP (Member for Wollondilly), Mrs. Wendy Tuckerman MP (Member for Goulburn), Mr Barry Paull (Acting General Manager Wingecarribee Shire Council), Mr. Adam Zarth (Illawarra Business Chamber), Mr. Duncan Gair (Mayor Wingecarribee Shire Council).



Southern Highlands Branch

9th March 2021

RE: Media release / Letter to the editor

The Southern Highlands branch of the National Party, at it's meeting held on the 8th March 2021, passed a unanimous resolution to congratulate and our local State Members for Wollondilly (Mr. Nathaniel Smith) and Goulburn (Ms. Wendy Tuckerman) on listening to business, community and rate payers' concerns and we thank them for jointly writing to the Minister of Local Government the Hon. Shelley Hancock to bring the current Wingecarribee Shire Council to account which has resulted in the issuance of a notice of suspension.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Samulski

On behalf of Southern Highlands Nationals.

On 5 Mar 2021, at 11:30 am, Paul Samulski <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Clr Peter Nelson,

Thank you for the futile expression of concern within your email although it would appear to be a little too late considering you will be suspended along with the rest of the council cohort. You sir, are part of a council that did not maintain a fiduciary duty to the residents of this shire and was an assault on democracy that the community has been subjected to for far too long.

You only need to listen to the sentiments within the community to gauge the level of discontent. You lost your glory at when you were dismissed from council as a staffer and have lost it again with this looming suspension.

As an entire council you are all as popular as a porkchop in a Synagogue.

Furthermore, there was no malice in the email sent yesterday and you obviously failed to see that I DID NOT write the email in my capacity as a SH Chamber board member, any other organisation I am involved with or proprietor of any of my entities, nor was it undersigned as such. Good luck trying to start trouble for me, you blokes are in more trouble than the early settlers.

It was written totally in my own personal capacity as a concerned resident, rate payer, business owner and recipient of extensive grievances from the community members. I stand by everything I wrote to the email and have nothing to apologise for.

I'm standing up for the victims courtesy of decisions by what has been one of the worst councils in the shire history.

So in closing here what I suggest you do with my correspondence. Print the aforementioned email out, lay it flat on your table, roll it in a spherical long thin shape, pick it up between your index finger and thumb, lean forward, grit your teeth, and insert it right up your anus!

Kind regards,

Paul Samulski
Concerned Resident, Rate Payer and Business Owner.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Peter Nelson <Peter.Nelson@wsc.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: Open email to council re Imminent suspension
Date: 5 March 2021 at 7:28:01 am AEDT
To: Steve Horton <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Duncan Gair <Duncan.Gair@wsc.nsw.gov.au>

Dear Steve

I respectfully request that as President of the local Chamber of Commerce that you bring Mr Samulski's email to the attention of the chamber board and then take appropriate action to sack Mr Samulski from the position of Council Liaison Office between the Chamber and Wingecarribee Shire Council. His email is disgusting and inappropriate to say the least and not worthy of a person who is suppose to be the contact person between the chamber and Council.

Regards
Peter Nelson
Councillor.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Paul Samulski <[REDACTED]>
Date: 4 March 2021 at 8:26:59 pm AEDT
To: Duncan Gair <Duncan.Gair@wsc.nsw.gov.au>, Councillors <Councillors@wsc.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Open email to council re Imminent suspension

External Email: This email was sent from outside the organisation, please be cautious with links and attachments in the email.

Mayor Gair & Councillors,

I hope this email finds you all well.

Firstly I wish to congratulate you Clr Gair for making contact last year with the minister for local government, the Hon. Shelley Hancock to intervene and provide direction when it was obvious you have lost control and confidence of the council, one that has been toxic, dysfunctional that quite honestly been residual for far too long.

Trapped in the ideology of the 1980s, trapped in the hypocrisy of the 1970s, and public transparency of the 1960s, never has a community been more embarrassed of its elected members than of this council.

The ego's, policy on the run and sheer arrogance of this council has done nothing but accelerate the disconnect between the council and the local community.

A lack of vision and transparency has caused significant community anger and unlike any time in history, it is imperative that as a collective group you all immediately step down from office for an early retirement to give this community a chance to reform, flourish and honour their next elected representative, so once again the residents of this shire can be proud of the local government system.

Mr Mayor, It is hardly fair when I watch the reporting on mainstream media that you are still shaking your head and blaming a but a few. You see councillors, the very reason this council needs to resign is glaringly obvious as each and every one of you continue to deflect and lay blame at your colleagues feet. Like the skipper of the wallabies after beaten 60 nil, one cannot just blame the rest of the team.

I hope this week has given you a chance to reflect and really understand the power of the community and absolute need for open and transparent governance.

The imminent suspension that is looming is a credit to Mr Smith and Ms Tuckerman for listening to the pleas of the broader community for action to be taken. From conversations I have had over the past few days, the residents, business owners and stakeholders are indebted to our two local members to having the fortitude to take the first step that has triggered a swift response from the minister.

Make the mistake councillors, many of you will go down in history as presiding over a council which can only be described as a dark chapter in the history of the Wingecarribee. Hopefully the sun will shine again.

Just like the name of the Bob Dylan song "Don't think twice, It's all right".

Kind regards,

Paul Samulski

E: [REDACTED]
M: [REDACTED]

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender and delete the message. Views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender and are not necessarily the views of Wingecarribee Shire Council. This email may be made available to third parties in accordance with the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009.