

OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT - WINGECARRIBEE SHIRE COUNCIL

Afternoons with Deborah Knight - Interview between
Deborah Knight and Deputy Mayor Garry Turland

Thursday, 30 January 2020 at 1.27pm

1 DEBORAH KNIGHT: Now look we were talking before the news
2 with John Barilaro from New South Wales - the deputy leader
3 there about the issue of this council, the Wingecarribee
4 Council in the Southern Highlands that has voted down the
5 idea of waiving council fees for people to rebuild, which
6 is just appalling. A National Party Mayor is behind this
7 who voted against waiving the development fees. On the
8 line is the Deputy Mayor Garry Turland. What do you think
9 about this, Garry?

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11 COUNCILLOR TURLAND: Oh, good afternoon, Deborah. Look,
12 it has been a - it has got a little bit out of control.
13 Let's go back a little bit. The article that was in the
14 Telegraph where the Mayor made a statement that DA fees
15 should only be waived to people without insurance, was his
16 statement, not mine and not the other councillors. It was
17 never brought up, it is what he said. He still hasn't
18 apologised to us, the councillors and the community for
19 that statement. That is one section of it.

20
21 The second part of it is, we had a meeting with the
22 Local Government Association yesterday, the President,
23 Linda and she made it clear to us councillors that were
24 there in Wollondilly that the Sydney councils have made an
25 offer to help the people in the bush affected by the fire,
26 all the other shires, that they will send down their town
27 planners to work on behalf of our shire at no cost.

28
29 Now, what happened last night, and the motion that was
30 put forward by Gair and the others that voted against my
31 motion, it all started back from the letter that went in in
32 the Telegraph, because Ken Halstead, a town planner and
33 councillor who used to lecture at University of UTS, put
34 councillors on notice that he was going to move this motion
35 that we did last night.

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37 DEBORAH KNIGHT: But why are they against waiving the fees
38 though? I mean, it beggars belief?

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40 COUNCILLOR TURLAND: Well, what - I know, I can't believe
41 it either. I have no idea. What I - what I don't
42 understand is why the Mayor and the General Manager did not
43 stand up last night and say that we have had such
44 a generous offer from the Sydney councils at no cost to all
45 the other councils that have been affected by the fire, to
46 deal with the DAs.

1 DEBORAH KNIGHT: Mmm.
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3 COUNCILLOR TURLAND: We have just heard from the Deputy
4 Premier that the long service leave will be waived and any
5 other government fees. It would be a no - nil cost to the
6 communities and the people who have lost their houses.
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8 DEBORAH KNIGHT: Do you agree with councillor Ian
9 Scandrett who told Ray Hadley earlier on in mornings that
10 the whole council should be sacked?
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12 COUNCILLOR TURLAND: No, I mean he's - he is on a tangent
13 that - put him aside, he has no control, he really is
14 a non-event and so don't listen to what he has got to say.
15 You know, he --
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17 DEBORAH KNIGHT: But he has got a good point. If you guys
18 can't get it right --
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20 COUNCILLOR TURLAND: No, he hasn't.
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22 DEBORAH KNIGHT: -- don't we have to start again here?
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24 COUNCILLOR TURLAND: No, we can get it right. No, because
25 what has happened is the Mayor the Deputy Mayor - the Mayor
26 and the General Manager did not inform the community that
27 we had that offer. We did not need to go into debate about
28 something that was going to cost us nothing.
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30 DEBORAH KNIGHT: So what is the upshot here Garry? Is
31 this going to be sorted or not?
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33 COUNCILLOR TURLAND: It will be sorted because the motion
34 that the Mayor put up was we have got to wait another two
35 weeks for the information report to come to council.
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37 DEBORAH KNIGHT: All right. Well, we are going to follow
38 up on that.
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40 COUNCILLOR TURLAND: It didn't need to happen - it didn't
41 need to happen. We could have resolved it last night as
42 per Ken Halstead and my motion that we put forward. But I
43 am afraid it got lost because the Mayor got into the ears
44 of the other councillors.
45
46 DEBORAH KNIGHT: Yeah.
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1 COUNCILLOR TURLAND: It has to stop. We are dealing with
2 the public here.

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4 DEBORAH KNIGHT: Absolutely. We will follow up on that
5 and we will ensure that it is brought to - it's rectified
6 the way it should be because, you know, you can't be
7 punishing locals in this way. The fees have got to be
8 waived. 131 873 - thank you for calling in Deputy Mayor
9 there Garry Turland from the Southern Highlands, the
10 Wingecarribee Shire.

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12 **INTERVIEW CONCLUDED**
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1	3:8 COUNCILLOR [9] - 2:11, 2:40, 3:3, 3:12, 3:20, 3:24, 3:33, 3:40, 4:1 councillors [5] - 2:16, 2:18, 2:23, 2:34, 3:44 councils [3] - 2:24, 2:44, 2:45	H	mean [2] - 2:38, 3:12 meeting [1] - 2:21 mine [1] - 2:16 mornings [1] - 3:9 motion [5] - 2:29, 2:31, 2:34, 3:33, 3:42 move [1] - 2:34	S	sacked [1] - 3:10 Scandrett [1] - 3:9 second [1] - 2:21 section [1] - 2:19 send [1] - 2:26 service [1] - 3:4 Shire [1] - 4:10 shire [1] - 2:27 SHIRE [1] - 1:9 shires [1] - 2:26 sorted [2] - 3:31, 3:33 South [1] - 2:2 Southern [2] - 2:4, 4:9 stand [1] - 2:43 start [1] - 3:22 started [1] - 2:31 statement [3] - 2:14, 2:16, 2:19 still [1] - 2:17 stop [1] - 4:1 Sydney [2] - 2:24, 2:44
2			N		
2020 [1] - 1:20	D	I	National [1] - 2:6 need [3] - 3:27, 3:40, 3:41 never [1] - 2:17 New [1] - 2:2 news [1] - 2:1 night [4] - 2:29, 2:35, 2:43, 3:41 nil [1] - 3:5 non [1] - 3:14 non-event [1] - 3:14 nothing [1] - 3:28 notice [1] - 2:34		
3					
30 [1] - 1:20		J	O	T	
8	DA [1] - 2:14 DAs [1] - 2:46 deal [1] - 2:46 dealing [1] - 4:1 debate [1] - 3:27 Deborah [3] - 1:15, 1:16, 2:11 DEBORAH [10] - 2:1, 2:37, 3:1, 3:8, 3:17, 3:22, 3:30, 3:37, 3:46, 4:4 Deputy [5] - 1:16, 2:8, 3:3, 3:25, 4:8 deputy [1] - 2:2 development [1] - 2:7 down [2] - 2:4, 2:26	January [1] - 1:20 John [1] - 2:2	OF [1] - 1:9 offer [3] - 2:25, 2:44, 3:27 OFFICE [1] - 1:9 one [1] - 2:19	tangent [1] - 3:12 Telegraph [2] - 2:14, 2:32 Thursday [1] - 1:20 town [2] - 2:26, 2:32 Turland [3] - 1:16, 2:8, 4:9 TURLAND [9] - 2:11, 2:40, 3:3, 3:12, 3:20, 3:24, 3:33, 3:40, 4:1 two [1] - 3:34	
A	E	K	P	U	
absolutely [1] - 4:4 affected [2] - 2:25, 2:45 afraid [1] - 3:43 afternoon [1] - 2:11 Afternoons [1] - 1:15 agree [1] - 3:8 apologised [1] - 2:18 appalling [1] - 2:6 article [1] - 2:13 aside [1] - 3:13 Association [1] - 2:22	ears [1] - 3:43 either [1] - 2:41 ensure [1] - 4:5 event [1] - 3:14	Ken [2] - 2:32, 3:42 Knight [2] - 1:15, 1:16 KNIGHT [10] - 2:1, 2:37, 3:1, 3:8, 3:17, 3:22, 3:30, 3:37, 3:46, 4:4	part [1] - 2:21 Party [1] - 2:6 people [4] - 2:5, 2:15, 2:25, 3:6 per [1] - 3:42 planner [1] - 2:32 planners [1] - 2:27 point [1] - 3:17 Premier [1] - 3:4 President [1] - 2:22 public [1] - 4:2 punishing [1] - 4:7 put [5] - 2:30, 2:33, 3:13, 3:34, 3:42	University [1] - 2:33 up [5] - 2:17, 2:43, 3:34, 3:38, 4:4 upshot [1] - 3:30 UTS [1] - 2:33	
B	F	L	R	V	
Barilaro [1] - 2:2 beggars [1] - 2:38 behalf [1] - 2:27 behind [1] - 2:6 belief [1] - 2:38 between [1] - 1:15 bit [2] - 2:12, 2:13 brought [2] - 2:17, 4:5 bush [1] - 2:25	fees [6] - 2:5, 2:7, 2:14, 2:37, 3:5, 4:7 fire [2] - 2:25, 2:45 follow [2] - 3:37, 4:4 forward [2] - 2:30, 3:42	last [4] - 2:29, 2:35, 2:43, 3:41 leader [1] - 2:2 leave [1] - 3:4 lecture [1] - 2:33 letter [1] - 2:31 Linda [1] - 2:23 line [1] - 2:8 listen [1] - 3:14 Local [1] - 2:22 LOCAL [1] - 1:9 locals [1] - 4:7 look [2] - 2:1, 2:11 lost [2] - 3:6, 3:43	Ray [1] - 3:9 really [1] - 3:13 rebuild [1] - 2:5 rectified [1] - 4:5 report [1] - 3:35 resolved [1] - 3:41	voted [3] - 2:4, 2:7, 2:30	
C	G	M		W	
clear [1] - 2:23 communities [1] - 3:6 community [2] - 2:18, 3:26 CONCLUDED [1] - 4:12 control [2] - 2:12, 3:13 cost [4] - 2:27, 2:44, 3:5, 3:28 COUNCIL [1] - 1:9 council [4] - 2:3, 2:5, 3:10, 3:35 Council [1] - 2:4 councillor [2] - 2:33,	Gair [1] - 2:30 Garry [5] - 1:16, 2:8, 2:9, 3:30, 4:9 General [2] - 2:42, 3:26 generous [1] - 2:44 GOVERNMENT [1] - 1:9 Government [1] - 2:22 government [1] - 3:5 guys [1] - 3:17	Manager [2] - 2:42, 3:26 Mayor [11] - 1:16, 2:6, 2:8, 2:14, 2:42, 3:25, 3:34, 3:43, 4:8	wait [1] - 3:34 waived [3] - 2:15, 3:4, 4:8 waiving [3] - 2:5, 2:7, 2:37 Wales [1] - 2:2		

weeks [1] - 3:35
whole [1] - 3:10
WINGECARRIBEE [1]
- 1:9
Wingecarribee [2] -
2:3, 4:10
Wollondilly [1] - 2:24

Y

yesterday [1] - 2:22