

COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH 2016

Good morning Mayor, elected councillors, General Manager, staff, people in the gallery.

I have decided to speak on NON AGENDA today rather than try battling with the Mayor and General Manger on Agenda Item" Minutes of the Previous Meeting". I HAVE A BURNING ISSUE AND I ASK MY STATEMENT BE PLACED ON THE COUNCIL'S WEB SITE AS YET MY LAST "NON AGENDA" ITEMS HAVE NOT APPEARED .

Last week I had a discussion with staff person Mr Anthony O'Reilly in relation to an issue I have a difficulty with and that is the Council's Agenda does not have a provision for "Business Arising from the Previous Minutes" , Mr O'Reilly indicated to me that this was not a requirement for Council. I decided to do some research of other Council's Agenda's and at this point in time I would ask that you bear with me:-

The first Council Agenda I looked at was the Wingecarribee Council's Agenda – there Agenda Points 1 and 2 are similar to ours BUT point 3 there is a provision for a PRAYER – I believe a prayer or two under this Council's roof would not go astray at times.

Points 4 is the same as ESC"s - and point 5 is Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting – point 6 of Wingecarribee is "BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES" - YES THAT IS RIGHT - " BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES" –as the Agenda must indicate all business from a former meeing.

Mr Mayor could you please tell me why our Council's Code of Meeting Practice does not meet the requirements of the Office of Local Government with regard to "business rising " (from the minutes of course)?

From that point on the Wingecarribee Council's Agenda does change slightly BUT at the end of the Agenda they have GENERAL BUSINESS QUESTIONS – this is where their Councillor's have an opportunity to raise ANY ISSUES.

In my research I have looked at other Council's Code of Meeting Practice and it would appear to me that other Codes are written in a fashion that any lay person like myself can easily be understood unlike the Code of Meeting Practice that this Council is operating on.

Now Councillor's , when those Councillors who voted to adopt this Councils Code of Meeting Practice in December 2014 you effectively placed a 'GAGG" on yourselves you adopted "URGENT BUSINESS " at the conclusion of the meeting instead of "GENERAL BUSINESS " and you failed to have "BUSINESS ARISING PLACED ON THE AGENDA" BUT more importantly effectively you 'GAGGED " the rate payers of this shire and the only reason you are sitting in those chairs today is because US THE VOTERS THAT PUT YOU THERE.

I NOW ASK YOU COUNCILLOR'S TO UNITE AND PLACE A MOTION FORWARD TO REVIEW THIS CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE IN IT'S ENTIRETY AND RECLAIM YOUR CONTROL THAT THE VOTERS OF THIS SHIRE GAVE YOU.

At the last Council meeting Clr. Harding asked me a question as to "What happened at the end of the Rural Producers meeting" – my answer to Clr. Harding is that NOTHING HAPPENED AT THE END OF THAT MEETING –

This was the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting that the consultant had conducted and yet even at this meeting he could not identify individual rural land owners properties on the maps and if they were affected by these overlays – NOW do any of you sitting here today honestly say you believe this is fair?

The facts are at each meeting the main issue raised was the overlays – at this meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> November one rural land owner did expressed his view words to the effect "I thought we were here for a workshop" he was immediately replied to "then raise your issues"- in the process of doing this that person was identified as a large land owner who had smaller lots appearing around his property and some people were apparently complaining about the activities he was conducting on his property this complaint was quickly identified and placed under the heading of PEOPLES PROPERTY RIGHTS and was written up on the white board by the consultant.

When the consultant called for a 'tea break" I asked for a show of hands for those who were against the overlays – apart from 4 present everyone voted overwhelming against the overlays.

After the vote was taken it was observed that a ex committee member of the Rural Lands "STORMED OUT OF THE MEETING" – at the adjournment the person who raised the previous issue I mentioned and an excouncillor and Rural Lands Committee member left the meeting BEFORE THE MEETING CONCLUDED.

After the break we continued to categorise and priorities the issue raised by those in attendance.

The following Tuesday , the 11<sup>th</sup> November I made an appointment to speak with staff person Mr Mark Hutchinson to examine the Rural Lands Maps to try and identify if overlays applied to our area.

Mr Hutchinson told me that the consultant had worked over the weekend identifying the various areas on the maps – I have to question why this was not identified earlier as a problem given that I myself had raised this issue at the first meeting I attended on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October.

I have formed the opinion that given that those 3 people who left this meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 1 or all 3 has influenced someone in authority to conduct this "secret meeting" by telling "porky pies".

My question NOW, is who in authority organised this INVITATION ONLY MEETING – the Mayor indicated at a previous meeting he did not organise this meeting – it is rumoured that a staff person organised this meeting – if this is correct "ON WHO'SE AUTHORITY " and if a staff person has organised this meeting it is now up to the GENERAL MANAGER TO APOLOGISE IN WRITING TO THE REMAINDER OF THE RURAL LAND OWNERS WHO WERE NOT TOLD OR INVITED TO ATTEND THIS MEETING –

There are still many outstanding issues concerning some Rural Land owners in relation to these overlays – In June 2014 the Council conducted a series of Rural Land Workshops headed by consultant Mr Danny Wiggins.

It is generally believed that Mr Wiggins understood the plight of the rural land owners and the draft document that he produced reflected this and yet in the final draft it was stated by staff words to the effect “Mr Wiggins did not have the right temperament to conduct these forum” – the general view is that Mr. Wiggins would not get employed by this Council again.

Some, who attended Mr Wiggins’s forum’s believe it is because Danny Wiggins did not produce the result for the Rural Lands that this Council wanted?

Councillor’s any reference to this “secret meeting” should not be taken into consideration especially given on the 30<sup>th</sup> December 2015 the Mayor appeared on Win TV and made a statement words to the effect “ that the Rural Lands holders were happy with the results of this long drawn out Rural Lands LEP” –Mr Ron Snape also appeared on this TV segment praising this process and interesting enough this was the same gentleman who was the first speaker on this issue in Public Forum on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016 when the Rural Lands Draft was on the Council’s Agenda.

For those Councillor who are intending on nominating in the next Council election and wanting to be elected , I would suggest you start praying loud and long as I can assure you there are a lot of unhappy voters in this shire.

START BY UNITING AS COUNCILLOR’S AND DEMAND AN APOLOGY IN WRITING TO ALL RURAL LAND OWNERS WHO WERE NOT INVITED TO THIS SECRET MEETING THAT YOU DID NOT APPROVE ON THE 15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2015 AND MOVE A MOTION TO REVIEW THIS COUNCIL CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE.

Thank you,

Patricia Hellier