

Public Forum Question and Response

Subject: Applicants for positions at Warringah Council - confirmation of qualifications and claims

Question from: Vincent De Luca

Meeting Date: 22 November 2005

Question:

I refer to the findings of the Independent Enquiry in Western Australia regarding former Warringah Council General Manager, Denis Smith that he did not possess some of the qualifications he claimed to have in his applications for the Director of Services position and subsequently the General Manager's position of Warringah Council. Can Council please confirm whether a policy has been introduced by Council to ensure that all candidates for positions at Warringah's Council qualifications and other claims are fully investigated and independently confirmed? If a new policy in this regard does not exist, can such a policy please be introduced as a matter of urgency?

Response:

The Administrator responded that Council has a clear and rigorous approach to checking of qualifications in place. The General Manager noted that independent assessment of qualifications is carried out for senior staff and Directors recruited using an agency. The Administrator drew attention to the Administrator's Minute adopted on 8 November relating to the process for the verification of employee qualifications. There is now a clear Council policy on the checking of qualifications. In the case of the appointment of a General Manager, all qualifications will be verified by the Mayor.