

I refer to the invective by Labor Party branch member, B Green (MD 15.12.07) over my opposition to the proposed 20 storey Towers in the Dee Why Town Centre and call for Dick Persson to disqualify himself from determining the proposal..

While I appreciate Mr Green's ignorance to the laws and Codes of Conduct which have been introduced since he was voted out of office as a Councillor in 1999, even those unaware of them should know out of fairness that the decision maker of an application before a Council should not make comments either in support or against until both sides of the debate are heard. A recent Supreme Court case suggests that if a councillor makes comment on a proposal prior to its determination they should disqualify themselves due to a conflict of interest.

The facts of this matter are:

- On 9.11.07 Mr Persson issued a Media Release on Warringah Council Letterhead making favourable comment about the proposal for the Dee Why Town Centre which includes increased height limits to 20 storeys and also included the name and contact details of the spokesperson from Multiplex Developments – the development company seeking the 20 storeys;
- Mr Persson subsequently made comments in the *Daily* in support of the proposal and stated it was “the last chance for Dee Why” and in the rate-payer funded Council column also made favourable comments;
- On 13.11.07 without any community consultation, Mr Persson adopted the proposal to set in motion the steps for 20 storey towers in the Dee Why Town Centre and the precedent for more of the same across Warringah.

Because of the above partial comments I believe Mr Persson should disqualify himself from determining this proposal and the Government appoint an alternate Administrator on this matter. I note an alternate Administrator has been appointed at Liverpool Council for when the Administrator there has been unable to act.

As to Mr Green questioning my legitimacy to speak on this issue and the title the *Daily* bestowed upon me “community activist”, my record on opposing overdevelopment in Warringah over many years is well documented. I have never ascribed the title “community activist”, nor did I seek the Order of Australia title that was bestowed upon me for outstanding voluntary services to the community through youth welfare, nor have I sought the Life Memberships and other titles bestowed upon me in recognition of my voluntary work in this community. I am and will always be a grass roots volunteer determined to serve the needs and interests of Warringah and its people as opposed to the self-interests of developers.

Sincerely
Vincent De Luca OAM