

It is alarming that Warringah Council is seeking to remove paid lifeguards off our beaches of a weekend (MD 2 August 2008). This is just another attack on our essential community services which adversely effects our volunteers that are the back bone of our society.

I have supported the Surf Life Saving movement for many years and will continue to do so, the professional lifeguards compliment the extraordinary work of our volunteer lifesavers.

Council's current regime has sought to cut community services, increase service fees while at the same time increasing its highly paid executive and bureaucracy. If elected Mayor, I will seek reform of Council's bloated executive and bureaucracy and use those savings for services like Surf Life Saving, more childcare placements and youth and aged services.

Council has tried to destroy Warringah's excellent volunteering traditions by abolishing community committees and targeting our hard working volunteer surf life saving clubs with increased lease fees and moves to take percentages of their fundraising efforts. This is inappropriate as they provide a paramount service to our community.

Council banning people playing on certain sports fields at night unless volunteers pay for new lighting and it trying to introduce a register for people using sports fields in an effort to divest legal liability for any accidents that happen on council's neglected fields from itself to volunteer sports coaches and managers is disgraceful.

The netball saga and the Administrator's failure to properly resolve this issue in the interests of netball, local residents and other sports also needs action. Through my many years as an administrator in sporting and community organisations I have the ability to address these issues and will support our volunteers, sporting organisations and residents to come up with solutions in the community's interests.

Vincent De Luca OAM
Community First Party Candidate for Warringah