

It really concerns me that the Manly Daily fails to accurately report all the issues involved (Council of War: Warringah and yet more strife) MD 9.6.10 and provide fair and balanced coverage.

I am not “employed” by Marie Ficarra MLC as falsely alleged, nor is she my “boss”. I am a NSW Government public servant and have served in various professional capacities under all shades of the arena.

The true issue at play, is that whistle blower staff of Warringah Council and others have called on Ms Ficarra to come to the aid of female Councillors and others who have allegedly been subjected to obscene language and derogatory attacks.

As an Upper House MP, Ms Ficarra serves the whole State. It is her role to raise issues of public importance. Prior to Warringah Council being sacked in 2003 a Commission of Enquiry found that certain Councillors were being “derisory”, “abusive” and “belligerent” at Council meetings and that this type of behaviour was a form of intimidation. The actions of Mayor Regan and Council’s General Manager in the past week I believe in an effort to try and intimidate and silence Ms Ficarra is deplorable.

Cr Regan’s motion about Ms Ficarra was opposed by two of his fellow Wake Up Warringah Party colleagues, Crs Ray and Laugesen, who was disgusted by his conduct and left the meeting. She had previously seconded my move condemning the Mayor and GM for their behaviour. Crs Falinski and Kirsch also voted against the Mayor’s political motion against Ms Ficarra.

Mayor Regan alleges I have a conflict of interest in supporting female Councillors and the freedom of an MP to raise issues of public importance. The only apparent conflict of interest that continues to disadvantage the people of Warringah is that its Mayor is wearing two hats – as a staff member of Manly Council and as Mayor of the adjoining Council - prior to election he promised not to do this.

Vincent De Luca OAM
Warringah Councillor