

### **Community before business Mr Syme!**

Mr Michael Syme (Resident's Pot Shots at Councillors MD 10/2/11) has a fundamental misunderstanding of what Local Government is all about. Councils are certainly not a "business" and Councillors are not elected to make money from residents.

While I appreciate Mr Syme was paid to sit on Council's Audit Committee, a Councillor's job is not about slashing funding, services and infrastructure at every opportunity, but to work constructively to seek the best for ratepayers and residents.

Curiously, much of the content of Mr Syme's speech was similar to a speech made by Mayor Michael Regan at the commencement of the Council meeting. Both attacked Councillors for bringing Notices of Motion on behalf of the community to Council for consideration and resolution. Since my election I have brought Motions before Council, to stop the 20 storeys in Dee Why, overturn proposals to take away the second parking sticker from residents, overturn proposals to privatise childcare and ban mountain bikers from using Manly Dam, for money to be allocated to our Surf Life Saving Clubs and Soccer Association and essential works to be carried out at rock pools and other community facilities.

Most recently, my Motion regarding the inappropriateness of the proposed development in Epping Drive, Frenchs Forrest resulted in the developer withdrawing the application which was unacceptable to residents.

As Councillors, it is our role to be advocates for the community, put their needs and interests first and respond to their concerns by raising issues at Council. Mr Syme, I and other community based Councillors will never resile from this, despite your and Mayor Regan's attack.

**Cr Vincent De Luca OAM**  
Warringah Councillors

Tel: 0408 650 651