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## **Media Release**

### **Regan backs half a million on Social Media but doubles sports players' levy**

Warringah Councillor Vincent De Luca has today condemned Mayor Michael Regan for pushing to have over \$500k of Warringah rate-payers' money spent on Social Media initiatives while doubling the sports fee levy on every person and child that plays sport on Warringah.

"I am dumbfounded that Director of Corporate Services, John Warburton advised the meeting that not only has \$500k been allocated for Social Media, but that it is more than probable more money than that will be spent. What was also shocking was the General Manager's confirmation that this money was not allocated at the request of ratepayers' and that no public consultation was undertaken. He also confirmed that only 20% of people that contact Council use IT for such purposes. All this is very strange" Cr De Luca stated.

"I am also concerned that in an upcoming election year, Warringah Council's Social Media could be misused for political purposes".

"This allocation of half a million dollars is a smack in the face to residents when considering the most amount of representations during the Budget consultation process, over 600, were in opposition to doubling the Sports Players levy. Despite this, all Councillors except Virginia Laugesen and myself voted to double the fee".

"I do not believe the increase is fair on players and particularly on families where there is more than one child participating".

"Furthermore, no Memorandum of Understanding was entered into between Council and the sporting user groups guaranteeing standards of maintenance and services".

"As I have said again and again, we need to look inside the organisation before slugging ratepayers. Last year alone rate-payers paid \$990,993 in salaries for the General Manager and three Directors of Councils. Council also incurred an increase of over \$2.4m in salaries last year from \$37,505m in 2008/2009 to \$39,905m for 2009/2010."

"Following the ICAC investigation into Burwood Council, a full restructure of that Council was undertaken and Director positions abolished. Two Deputy General Managers were appointed with responsibility for Land, Infrastructure and Environment, the other Corporate Governance and Community. While I have nothing against our three Directors at Warringah, I do think their roles could be merged into two which would save on salaries. I am also concerned that some Team Leaders at Council are paid in excess of \$130k a year and rationalisation needs to be considered for those roles as well".

"There are numerous areas where savings and money can be made instead of slugging rate-payers" Cr De Luca concluded.

For more information please contact Cr De Luca on 0408 650 651