

Dear Letters Editor

I first raised concerns about the \$500k wastage in July 2011 and reiterated my concerns and questioned the expenditure at last Tuesday night's Council Meeting - I am surprised my concerns were not documented in the article. Accordingly, I have written the below.

Re Council defends campaign spending:

Wendy Harmer is right about how ridiculous it is Warringah Council's Mayor and Staff have spent over \$500k of rate-payers' money on a new Warringah Council website. The new logo cost an additional \$27k to draw let alone implement! This is nothing but a PR stunt and self-aggrandisement to support moves to try and take over Pittwater and Manly Councils.

I questioned the \$500k expenditure in July 2011 after a senior staffer so disgusted about it alerted me. Ironically, at the same time this waste was exposed, Council were increasing sporting levies for kids to use sporting fields.

Council argues a new website and logo will overcome negative perceptions. Despite Council being sacked 3 times, the dysfunctional culture continues due to some Councillors and staff ignoring what the community wants eg the community was against Council's take-over of the Bob Giltinan Tennis Centre, sale of the Oaks Ave car park and moves to commercialise Council buildings and surf club facilities used by volunteer organisations.

It is farcical there is an expensive push for Warringah to take over Pittwater and Manly Councils. No amount of money on PR and IT will ever overcome adverse perceptions of Warringah Council when behaviour that caused Pittwater to secede continues to this day.

Pittwater Council has shone since its establishment in 1992 and named the best Council in the State. This is due to the excellent leadership by the Mayors and General Managers of that Council who have always put community opinion first, sadly this leadership is desperately lacking at Warringah Council.

Cr Vincent De Luca OAM
Warringah Councillor