

Dear Stephen

I note that despite me extensively outlining why I would be against this policy at the Council meeting, only Councillors that spoke in favour were quoted. The community want to know why I voted against it. Could the below letter please be published:

Council's Hire Policy met with resistance – MD 8.7.14

It should never be the role of a Council to seek to make money out of voluntary Community and Sporting groups that serve the needs and interests of our community.

Instead of Warringah Council supporting its voluntary organisations it appears some desire to push them out of their buildings – what is the ultimate motive?

Council fails to take into consideration that often land was donated to Council or the Crown for community and sporting clubs, buildings were built by volunteer labour and many of these buildings have been maintained over decades at Community and Sporting Club's own expense.

This Policy adopted by Mayor Regan and his followers provides that organisations whose buildings were built within the last 20 years may receive a discount, provided they justify their existence.

Most buildings in Warringah were built over 20 years ago so these organisations will be most adversely effected. Indeed, practically every sporting club house community group venue is over 20 years old and some have served our community for nearly 100 years!

The Minister for Crown Lands has already recognised Warringah Council's disregard for its volunteers and authorised a direct lease between Surf Life Saving Sydney Northern Beaches and the Crown over their Surf Rescue Building at Long Reef. Sadly, for many of these Community and Sporting organisations to survive and avoid the commercial rents which could close them down, they will now have to seek direct leases with the Minister for the Crown.

Cr Vincent De Luca OAM
Warringah Councillor