

Media Release



27 November 2024

Council decision regarding Mayor

To be attributed to Cr Melanie Selwood, Deputy Mayor

Council has been dealing with a matter relating to a complaint made by one elected member against another under the Council's Behavioural Management Policy.

This complaint has led to a thorough and complex independent investigation that prioritised procedural fairness and natural justice for all parties.

The subsequent report generated as a result of this investigation found the Mayor had breached the policy in a number of important areas including breaches with regard to acting in a manner consistent with the role, establishing and maintaining relationships of respect and trust, taking all reasonable steps to ensure the community and the Council are not knowingly misled, and a commitment not to bully Council employees.

At last night's Council meeting and after careful deliberation, the elected members resolved to take a range of actions including formally censuring the Mayor, requiring her to make unconditional public and private apologies, requiring her to attend a program of training and education, and requesting that she repay Council for the costs of the independent investigation and report.

Council also declared it has no confidence in the Mayor and has called on her to resign.

The subject matter of the original complaint remains confidential out of respect to the individuals involved and I am therefore limited in what I can say on this matter.

However, I would like to make it clear that I believe the resolutions are commensurate with the seriousness of the breaches and demonstrate Council's determination to ensure that we all uphold the values that underpin both our culture and our shared commitment to serve the Adelaide Hills community.

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