



27/4/2017

Mr Keith Baillie, CEO

Surf Coast Shire

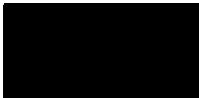
We the under-signed wish to petition you regarding the unprecedented step the Shire Council have taken in voting to fly the rainbow flag on Shire Offices.

We represent the vast majority of ratepayers of the Surf Coast Shire who agree that this is totally inappropriate and completely irrelevant and is certainly is none of the Shire's business (80% of Addy readers of the Geelong Advertiser voted against the flag in their online poll)!

This has no relationship to our local government and nor is it in their defined areas of responsibility under the Local Government Act 1989 and in so doing the councillors have contravened the Act. The councillors were not elected to use their privileged positions to push their own personal views on political and social issues which are the jurisdiction of the Federal Government. Council should not be used as a forum for personal issues nor to use the Shire as a platform for their own agendas.

There has been no opportunity to consult and no public debate. The vote was taken when Cr Heather Wellington was on leave and she is publicly against this decision. The vote would have been a draw if she had been there (why could she not vote proxy as company Directors are able to?) A councillor who was on sick leave was bought in to vote for the flag. There was much intimidation against any other opinion at the Council Chambers meeting.

The councillors are not justified in using Council infrastructure and resources to promote their personal views. To use Shire resources for that purpose is a serious misuse of the trust and authority the community bestowed on our councillors when we elected them to office.



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