



Newport Residents Association Inc.

PO Box 1180
Newport Beach NSW 2106
President - Gavin Butler (gebutler@aapt.net.au) 0409 395 102
Hon. Secretary - Peter Middleton (peter@midboyd.com)
Hon. Treasurer - Kyle Hill 0412 221 962
www.newport.org.au

12th June 2015

The Mayor,
M/s Jacqueline Townsend,
Pittwater Council,
PO Box 882
Mona Vale NSW 1660

Dear Jacqueline,

Re: Councillors Conflict of Interest Positions when voting

We find that regularly at council meetings Councillors declare a Conflict of Interest on various matters and stand down from the vote. We often find it is difficult to understand why Councillors stand down from voting when the issue seems rather extraneous to their general interests.

We are writing following a resolution carried at a recent Newport Residents Association meeting that despite the comments above we witnessed, at the council meeting on Monday the 18th May 2015, six councillors noted a conflict of interest they effectively indicated as non-significant. However four of those same councillors then voted against a motion where we would have thought they did have a conflict of interest.

The motion being referred to is the motion that would have allowed Pittwater Council to accept an EPA offer of the power to ban the installation of new wood burning heaters in selected areas, at some time in the future. This motion was moved and seconded by two of the six councillors who had declared an interest as owners of wood heaters, but indicated they did not intend to use those heaters henceforth. The other four councillors who declared they had an active interest in their own wood heaters joined the debate and voted against the motion and the motion was defeated accordingly.

We would be pleased to hear why in this case the councillors did not stand down from voting or were asked to reconsider their position after the motion was put.

Yours sincerely,

Gavin Butler
President