

Vincentia Ratepayers and Residents Association

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Ms Patricia White
Mayor
Shoalhaven City Council
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Copies to all SCC Councillors and CEO

Re: Character Policy, the Community needs to be Briefed

Dear Madam Mayor,

The community consultative body for Vincentia - VCCA, discussed the rescission of the Character Policy at our general meeting on 20th February 2025. Cllr Lou Casmiri, and Jemma Tribe also spoke at our meeting.

The meeting found it difficult to understand the arguments put forward on why the new Council rescinded the Character Policy. It seems certain new Councillors had not read the background information when the motion to accept Stage 1 of the Character policy was unanimously accepted. There was a mention of suspicion of the previous Council and what had been passed by them, so the new Council decided to backtrack.

Our meeting was also informed that wording concerns by certain Councilors can be addressed by amendments, enabling the matter to move forward.

To facilitate the community's understanding of the Character Policy and whether it should be reinstated, it was suggested that Shoalhaven City Council hold a briefing for the community to explain Character assessment and how it would have been applied and its implications for LEPs.

We are aware of the time constraints - Gateway approval expires on March 14, so it is imperative this matter is sorted by the Council - to avoid the unnecessary additional expense of approx. \$100,000 in order to start the process again.

We would appreciate your prompt attention to considering a briefing, or workshop, on Character Policy, for the sake of community understanding and to alleviate the anxiety this has caused.

Thank you for your consideration

David Pursley
Secretary
Vincentia Ratepayers and Residents Association

Saturday, February 22, 2025