

15 August 2018

## LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear City of Subiaco Community,

In light of recent media coverage and misinformation, I am writing to you to clarify some important matters.

### 1. Planning Services

The city's Manager Planning Services, Mr Alexander Petrovski, was previously employed at the Department of Planning. In his previous role, Mr Petrovski was one of a team of officers working on the City of Subiaco's draft Local Planning Scheme No. 5 (LPS5), as well as other projects. It is important to note that he had no delegated authority on this matter. Mr Petrovski was not responsible for the WAPC-directed changes to LPS5.

Town planners, like all professionals, will work for a variety of authorities and organisations with different missions and objectives throughout their careers. Mr Petrovski has demonstrated his commitment to the City of Subiaco and has proven himself to be an invaluable member of staff, providing exemplary leadership and engagement with our community throughout the LPS5 consultation process.

Our staff are our number one asset and the City of Subiaco has a duty of care to provide a safe and supportive work place. I can categorically state that there is no conflict of interest on this matter and the City of Subiaco will not enter into any further discussion about an individual staff member's employment.

### 2. Freedom of information and disclosure of confidential information

Local governments have a responsibility to be open and transparent in decision-making processes. At times, matters are discussed internally because they relate to commercial decisions, legal matters, terms of employment, etc.

Elected members have a responsibility to perform their duties in accordance with the Local Government Act 1995. We must work together under a common standard of trust and respect. These are simple, reasonable and fundamental principles that allow for robust and fearless discussion.

On numerous occasions, extracts of correspondence and documents supplied to elected members have been published in the newspaper and online platforms. Last week, I offered elected members the opportunity to swear an affidavit. There was no requirement to do so. I wanted to demonstrate the expectation that elected members should be able to work together in a safe, ethical and respectful space.

I support Freedom of Information processes. I do not support the actions of individuals that escalate issues instead of first seeking clarification of matters by asking simple questions.

### 3. Decision making process for LPS5

The City of Subiaco is following a legislative process for the consideration of LPS5. The city has undertaken a rigorous consultation process, resulting in more than 1000 public submissions and a high level of awareness of the issues our city is facing.

We are listening to all voices. The State Government has indicated a willingness to work with the City of Subiaco to get a better scheme. I ask that you respect this legislative process.

Your council has been elected to represent the views of the community and is working to get the best outcomes for the City of Subiaco – now and in the future. This is a privileged position that we do not take lightly.

Yours sincerely



**PENNY TAYLOR**  
CITY OF SUBIACO MAYOR