



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Hawkesbury City Liberal Councillors call on Mayor to resign position on Flood Risk Advisory Committee.**

Following the unexpected defeat of a motion to support the NSW Government's plans to raise Warragamba Dam wall, Liberal Councillors are calling on the Mayor to resign her position as the Chair of the Flood Risk Advisory Committee.

The motion moved by Liberal councillor Nathan Zamprogno sought to have council renew its support for the project, in a bid to keep pressure on the NSW Government.

The motion was defeated by Green, Labor and some independent councillors, after the Mayor told Council 'Its not our role to advocate for this project' and the Deputy Mayor told Council it shouldn't seek to let the NSW Government know of its position unless the government specifically asked.

Following the vote, Councillor Nathan Zamprogno told the Mayor her position as chair of the committee was untenable, as the committee had recently resolved that advocating for the pursuit of this strategy was one of its key objectives.

"You can't chair a committee bound by its terms of reference to advocate for a particular outcome, and then vote against that outcome in the Council chamber. It's totally inconsistent. If she cannot support the committee's objectives, she should resign from it." Clr Zamprogno said.

Many members of the committee were present at the meeting, and a number addressed the Council to urge the Council to support the motion.

Clr Sarah Richards urged the Council to show civic leadership in protecting the community from the impacts of flooding.

“The community expect leadership from Council on this issue, not excuses. The Mayor said that it isn’t Council’s job to be advocating for this, flying in the face of the consistent support of her predecessors going back decades. Of course we should be advocating on behalf of our community, which is most at risk from floods.”

“The dam project is not a done deal; the NSW Government will decide on the final business case by 2020. It is too important for the safety of our community for this not to have bi-partisan support.”

Clr. Zamprogno reflected on the leadership previous mayors had shown on this same issue, recalling former Mayor Rex Stubbs not only sustaining Council’s support for raising Warragamba Dam in the 1990s, but chairing the advocacy group DAMIT on behalf of the broader community who were concerned about the potentially catastrophic effects of flooding on an increasingly developed floodplain.

Clr Patrick Conolly said it was just political expediency to argue that we should not advocate for State Government projects.

“The Greens-independent block on Council is prepared to regularly stick Council’s nose into the State Government’s business when it suits their agenda, such as on the regular motions Council passes against Windsor Bridge and many other State Government areas of policy.”

“Some councillors don’t want the community to know that they won’t support flood mitigation, so suddenly it’s not Council’s role to advocate.”

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