

# Message from the Administrator



This week myself and fellow Administrators were very fortunate to receive a briefing from several great community-based local organisations as part of Public Presentations to Council.

The presentation we received from Laura Brennan on behalf of the local FrEEZa Committee and Graeme Green on behalf of local Men's Sheds were particularly inspiring. As Administrators, we regularly hear from people with advice or views about what Council should do. What was inspiring about these two presentations was hearing from people who had identified what was needed in the community and who had then set about organising people and resources to make it happen. They are great role models and their work is clearly having a positive impact in those parts of the community they work with. Our Council Community Strengthening team do great work supporting these and many other groups locally and is a living example of Council at its best, partnering with fantastic local people and community organisations.

Myself and other Administrators have also heard directly from local residents on concerns about the proposed changes to the Local Law which has been out for public consultation and it is fair to say that the view of local people is overwhelmingly against several of the proposed changes.

In the context of such strong and overwhelming feedback, the view of Administrators is that to continue with the consultation process would be a waste of time given the views of the community have already been so clearly expressed.

At Wednesday's Council meeting we will consider a report that recommends Council not proceed any further with the proposed Local Law changes. If we vote to adopt that recommendation then Council would stay with the existing Local Law.

We thank all of those who participated in the public consultation process and those who separately expressed their views to myself and other Administrators to this point – you have made yourselves heard very clearly. These processes are designed to elicit feedback from people and I think we are at our best – in those situations where there is clearly overwhelming sentiment about something – when we listen and act promptly to give effect to this.

As the year draws to close, myself and fellow Administrators have been honoured to attend local events with community organisations where recognition has been given to the work of volunteers throughout the year. We continue to be inspired by the amazing stories of personal commitment to volunteering spanning many decades and often across several community organisations. It's a real privilege for us to serve such an inspiring community. For those I won't see over the next two weeks, please allow me to extend my best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

**Christian Zahra AM**  
**Administrator**