

**Item 14.10****Notices of Motion**

By Councillor Gannon

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council note:
- (i) the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) last year exposed three former local government councillors in South Sydney for engaging in serious corrupt conduct;
  - (ii) late last year, Operation Tolosa found that City of Canada Bay Council Mayor and others engaged in serious corrupt conduct between November 2015 and February 2019. Operation Tolosa reiterated the need for a lobbyist register in local government;
  - (iii) the NSW Local Government Act 1993 (the Act) contains the framework for regulating conduct, honesty, disclosures of interest, serious corrupt conduct and misconduct. Section 439 imposes a statutory duty on a councillor to “act honestly and exercise a reasonable degree of care and diligence in carrying out his or her functions”;
  - (iv) the Act also allows for the creation of a “model code” which sets out the minimum standards of conduct for council officials. Its purpose includes assisting officials to act in way that “enhances public confidence in local government”;
  - (v) as local government officials we play a crucial role in the decision-making process, not limited to property development, however in the Model Code and the Act the word lobbyist is not mentioned;
  - (vi) the Lobbying of Government Officials Act 2011 that is in place covers lobbyists, ensuring that lobbyists comply with ethical standards of conduct and other requirements set out in the Lobbyists Code. However, this Act does not apply to local government officials;
  - (vii) the rules for lobbying that the state and federal government face, must be the same rules applied to local governments. Recent ICAC findings support this; and
  - (viii) we, as councillors must lead the way in holding our own integrity to the high standard we want, and our community wants, by pushing for the same rules to be had across all three levels of government;
- (B) City of Sydney Councillors be required to publicly disclose their meetings with registered lobbyist and property developers in the same fashion as state and federal parliamentarians; and

- (C) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to write to the Office of Local Government NSW affirming the City's support for increasing integrity in local government by adopting ICAC's previous recommendations in relation to lobbyists.

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