

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 13 April 2022 2:22 PM
To: Moira Deeming
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Complaints

Dear Cr Deeming

A brief of the events around this matter has been compiled by [REDACTED] following the collation of emails and meetings held for us to understand matters raised.

The next step is [REDACTED] and I to brief the Mayor on the overall matter and related matters as we understand them. This meeting is proposed for next week.

It is following this meeting with the Mayor that I expect officers will provide structured and tailored responses to matters raised by individual councillors with each individual councillor connected to the matters originally raised. Communication with the broader councillor group will also be considered.

As previously mentioned I am always concerned when people raise anxiety and health and wellbeing matters. Councillors can access support with regards to health and wellbeing. Please let me know if you would like to have some direct contact on what is available.

Regards
[REDACTED]

From: Moira Deeming <MoiraD@melton.vic.gov.au>

Sent: Monday, 11 April 2022 4:17 PM

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Complaints

Dear [REDACTED],

I'm writing to you because I am seeking an update on what is happening with the code of conduct complaint, and the request from all Councillors (bar [REDACTED] who was no in attendance at the meeting with [REDACTED] that the human rights abuses allegations be concluded.

I was wondering if a path forward (at least for the Facebook allegations), was that a statement of facts be issued by MCC to the effect that (and this is just a rough draft)-

1. There is no evidence of a campaign against LGBTQ+ community at the Councillor level or any other level, in Melton City Council. MCC is welcoming of all etc etc, and Council is currently seeking legal advice from the Vic Gov Solicitor's office on interpretations of law regarding single sex spaces and services.
2. During her term on Council, [REDACTED] has not yet put forward any budget submissions or notices of motion regarding women's safety measures, nor have any Councillors ever indicated in any way that they would have voted against such measures if they had been proposed.
3. Council minutes record that no Councillor voted against Councillor [REDACTED] proposal to (expand or something?) Melton Waves pool, as it had to be withdrawn due to the fact that Council does not own the land and therefore could not legally enforce the proposal.
4. That Council meeting minutes record that the only Councillor to raise the issue of protecting the Muslim female community's access to single sex spaces, services and swimming sessions in a Council meeting/briefing was Cr. Deeming (and no Councillor objected). [REDACTED] *did agree with me in a meeting about designing single occupancy and gender neutral toilets in such a way as to maximise safety- that is the one and only time she ever spoke a word on this topic prior to questioning me publicly on live stream.*
5. That Councillor Deeming, in posting a clip of a live Council meeting did not during her speech or on her Facebook post comment titling that speech, or in comments under the facebook post of that speech, make any statements about any person or policy at Melton City Council that were untrue or misleading. Cr

Deeming stated her opinion on a matter being discussed and shared it online- and if you like you can put in the words I used at the top.

For the other internal complaint, perhaps since we have it on record that no other Councillors have ever seen any other Councillor behave in any way which approximates anything in [REDACTED] complaint- perhaps in that case a private statement that there has been no evidence and 8 contrary witness statements by Councillors found to support her complaint.

I am asking if this is an option, because then the code of conduct complaint could be avoided altogether and the demand for [REDACTED] to retract her internal complaint would also be unnecessary. I would be satisfied that the truth had been clarified, Councillors would not be put through a code of conduct case and no reasonable case could be brought against any of us in the future about the internal complaint. Councillors could have it in writing that they are not part of an anti lgbtq+ campaign, nor condoned or overlooked any racist human rights abuses.

I feel that this is 100% necessary, because as no Councillor was directly named by [REDACTED] and the language used implied the possibility of more than one person in both cases, we are now all accused and deserve to have our names cleared because there is in fact, zero evidence of these incredibly damaging accusations.

I also do not think it is acceptable to let it be said- unchallenged- that LGBTQ+ are being targeted in our municipality at a 'council level', not just because it is a lie, but because it will cause unnecessary fear in the LGBTQ+ community. I have now had it confirmed to me that based on [REDACTED] baseless accusations, that there are indeed several LGBTQ+ MCC residents who were feeling distressed that it was true. In one case, I managed to educate and reassure the lady about what the real issues were and what my real concerns and goals were- namely- to clarify the law and if possible, arrange for funding for safe spaces and services for trans people in addition to and not instead of, safe spaces and services for women, children and religious residents. I was not able to speak with the second resident, but I was assured that the lady in question would pass on the truth. In fact, she subsequently contacted me to provide me with more testimonies and evidence to support my claim that females need single sex spaces.

Last of all, I must reinforce how incredible the anxiety is that I am going through because of these two issues, and even more so now because my address has been made known to [REDACTED] possibly others. I have had it confirmed now that my reputation is being damaged by that post, and moreover, these kinds of accusations now carry enormous legal consequences including jail terms and fines. By my count, we now have two (one public and one private) nameless accusations from [REDACTED] about two different kinds of heinous human rights violations, with not a single piece of evidence presented, neither of which has been withdrawn, and both of which have been causing anxiety to multiple Councillors over an extended period of time.

I don't know what you have planned, but I've obviously not been able to stop worrying about it and I suspect this is the least divisive route to drawing some kind of line under the two issues.

I hope that I am not coming across as unreasonable or demanding, that is not my intent. I know that you have to be careful about the order in which you do things, and I have very much appreciated yours and [REDACTED] professionalism, I just felt the need to write again and see if my suggestions were acceptable, and to ask for an update.

Kindest regards,

Cr Moira Deeming

Watts Ward Councillor | **Melton City Council**

M: 0499 801 198

E: moira.deeming@melton.vic.gov.au | **W:** melton.vic.gov.au