

Monday 30 June 2014

COUNCIL MOVES FORWARD AFTER ICAC FINDINGS

City of Ryde Mayor Roy Maggio has acknowledged the findings from the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), saying the actions of one individual had damaged the reputation of the Council.

In the report of *Operation Cavill* made public today, ICAC found that the former Mayor of Ryde, Cllr Ivan Petch engaged in corrupt conduct in 2012.

Matters relating to Cllr Petch have been referred to the Office of Local Government. The ICAC has also recommended seeking advice from the Director of Public Prosecutions with respect to criminal charges.

The Mayor said: "It is very disappointing that the conduct of a former Mayor has significantly damaged this Council's reputation. His actions have let both our community and the organisation down."

ICAC also made findings against three current councillors and a number of other individuals. These matters have been referred to the Department of Public Prosecutions.

The Mayor added: "I am pleased to read in the report that '*ICAC found no evidence of systemic or operational failure*' within the day to day working of the Council. What the investigation exposed was '*the willingness of individuals to intentionally ignore any systemic and operational controls that stood in the way of the pursuit of personal interest or political advantage*'."

Cllr Maggio said that the past twelve months had been extremely challenging for the staff and the wider community and that the findings represented an important step in the right direction that will allow the organisation to move forward.

"I am committed to leading an honest and transparent Council with robust policies, systems and procedures in place to prevent this type of misconduct happening again.

"Council has made a number of changes in the past twelve months, including the adoption of a revised Code of Conduct for Councillors that sets the highest standards of behaviour.

"Councillors are the elected representatives of the people and the community has every right to expect that they conduct themselves at the highest ethical and professional standards.

"We are working hard to restore the trust of our community," he added.

For further information go to www.icac.gov.au