



Councillor **William Maslin**

For Immediate Release

8 June 2010

Cr Maslin votes against reimbursement of Councillors' expenses policy

Gundagai Shire Councillor, William Maslin, today voted against Council's policy for reimbursing Councillors for their expenses incurred whilst carrying out Council business.

Gundagai Shire Council is probably the only Shire in New South Wales, if not Australia, that has a policy in place where each Councillor contributes equally each month into a special fund which covers the expenses incurred by Councillors carrying out Council business.

"The result of this policy is that Councillors cover their own expenses out of their monthly allowance, with the ratepayer not picking up the tab which isn't the case in other Councils", Cr Maslin said.

"While I appreciate the thought and intention of this policy and applaud the Council for continuing to cover Councillor expenses this way, it is not really a fair way to do it.

The policy requires each Councillor to contribute an equal amount to the expenses fund, which is currently at \$100 per month. Any expenses incurred by a Councillor while carrying out Council business such as being a delegate, travel to Council and Committee meetings etc is deducted from this fund.

"A typical month for me sees me contribute my \$100 only to claim back about \$1.40. Compare that to a rural Councillor who will claim back at least \$35. Then you have the Mayor representing Council at numerous functions who would have the biggest claim of all Councillors.

"In my first term, this policy financially disadvantages me to the tune of \$4,800, of which a large portion of that is used to "subsidise" the expenses of other Councillors. The problem with this policy is that it limits me in my capacity as an elected representative to carry out my duties fully.

"You shouldn't be on Council if you are in it for the money, which I am certainly not, however, the time and effort that I put into the community needs to be recognised, and by slashing my allowance by \$1,200 per annum is certainly not the way to do it", said Cr Maslin.

"The other problem with this policy is that the position of being a Councillor for other members of the community may be further out of reach due to the financial constraints arising from having such a policy", Cr Maslin concluded.

End.

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