



Hon Marlene Kairouz MP

Minister for Local Government
Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation

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Ms Rebecca McKenzie
President
Local Government Professionals Inc.
Level 3, 58 Lorimer Street
DOCKLANDS VIC 3008

Ref: MIN040066
“*MIN040066*”

Dear Ms McKenzie

Thank you for your letter of 5 February 2018 regarding recent public comments made about Ms Vijaya Vaidyanath, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Yarra City Council.

My understanding is that the councillors of Yarra City Council made a decision regarding Australia Day acknowledgement and Ms Vaidyanath performed her duties as CEO by implementing the decision

Ms Vaidyanath's actions to implement the decision does not validate or justify the abusive commentary directed at her.

I consider any form of harassment and vilification as unacceptable.

I also expect councillors to publicly defend their decisions and strongly support actions of the council's CEO in carrying out the decisions of the councils. This is particularly pertinent when abuse is received by the CEO for taking such actions.

All communities have the right to disagree with council decisions, but councils, including council staff, also have the right to be treated respectfully in carrying out their duties.

If members of a community are unhappy with the decisions made by their elected councillors, they have the opportunity to express their opinion at the next council election. They can also take up the matter with their elected councillors at any point.

In relation to your request for a meeting about this matter, I understand that you met with my Local Government Adviser, Isabelle Kingshott on 14 February 2018 to discuss this important matter.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely


Hon Marlene Kairouz MP
Minister for Local Government

8/3/18