

Attention:  **MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE MEDIA RELEASE****COUNCIL'S BLOODYMINDEDNESS COSTS RATEPAYERS  
DEARLY**

Lismore Community Independent Councillors Carson, Irwin and Roberts today expressed extreme regret that the bloodymindedness of six Councillors has cost ratepayers what is believed to be in excess of \$50,000 in direct and indirect costs for nothing.

They were commenting on the decision today by the Land and Environment Court to uphold the appeal by Mark Anson against Council's rejection of his application for a Multiple Occupancy development at The Channon.

The Community Independent Councillors pointed out that Council's own planning staff had recommended approval ... a recommendation that was today described by the Court as proper. However with the exception of the Community Independent Councillors and Councillors Gallen, Hepburn and Spash, Councillors chose to ignore that recommendation and refused the application on the casting vote of the Mayor. They then had to ask the Chief Planner to advise them of possible reasons to justify their refusal of his own recommendation.

Councillors Carson, Irwin and Roberts pointed out that the Council has since had several opportunities offered by both them and Council's staff to mediate with the developer instead of going to court. However they continued to reject mediation, going against their own policy of mediation.

"It is a matter of great concern that Councillors rejected the professional advice given by their own staff, who said from the outset that it would be extremely difficult to withstand an appeal", they said. "Planning decisions should always be made on proper planning grounds and today's decision simply reinforces the danger of straying from this principle. It is a great pity that the real losers today are the ratepayers of Lismore".

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