

Dr Catherine Dale
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Dear Dr Dale

I write in regard to this week's public access session of 17th August where Simon Cox from the Coila Cultural Heritage & Environment Group (CHEGG) presented to Councillors regarding DA2248/1983 which affects Tuross Head & Coila Lake.

ABE members watched the CHEGG presentation with great interest, as some of the key issues canvassed in the presentation are relevant to ABE's recent presentations to Council regarding the need for genuine community consultation, as well as the importance of obtaining and taking account of relevant expert advice before making decisions. These aspects are key elements of ABE's focus on open, accountable and responsive government for the Eurobodalla region.

ABE was disappointed to note that you advised Mayor Innes that Mr Cox could not be questioned by Councillors regarding his presentation because he was speaking on behalf of a group (CHEGG). This advice stymied what could have been a fruitful interchange of ideas and information between Councillors and a well informed community representative.

ABE notes that similar rulings have also affected recent ABE presentations to Council, and so now seeks formal written advice from you outlining :

- 1) the relevant provisions of Council's Code of Meeting Conduct being used as the basis for your rulings regarding the restriction on Councillors questioning spokespersons who present on behalf of groups; and
- 2) the basis for how these provisions are being applied in Public Access and Public Forum sessions.

ABE looks forward to the receipt of your advice, so that it can be used to inform ABE's future presentations to Council.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Brett Stevenson
Co-Convenor,
A Better Eurobodalla

19/8/21