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Media Release

Indigo Shire Demands New Leadership - The Time for Change Is Now

Indigo Community Voice calls for a decisive break from the leadership failures of the past 4 years.

Indigo's community have demanded change with the Shire's future in the hands of its 4 newly elected councillors. "Leadership isn't about repeating the mistakes of the past—it's about charting a fresh course for the future," said President Ellerbock. "This Council needs leaders who serve the community, not rubber-stamp bureaucratic agendas."

For years, the community has voiced its priorities through council surveys, demanding action on roads, footpaths, and drainage—only to be ignored. Under the previous Council Mayor and Deputy, Indigo Shire recorded its lowest-ever Victorian Community Satisfaction rating in over a decade, plummeting to just 50%.

Herb Ellerbock highlighted additional areas of concern, including the Council's newly adopted rate strategy, which will inevitably impose hikes far exceeding the state government's rate cap, contrary to Section 101 of the Local Government Act 2020. Years of unchecked spending on questionable projects like multimillion high-maintenance cycle trails and art installations have left vital community infrastructure underfunded.

Adding insult to injury, ratepayers have been charged more than \$7.5 million under the Environmental Management Contribution, initially earmarked for rehabilitating four closed landfill sites but after 16 years nothing has happened. "Collecting millions while failing to rehabilitate these sites and diverting funds into general revenue is a sleight of hand—it's a betrayal of ratepayer trust," said Ellerbock.

"Council is a \$40 million business, and it's time it's managed as one to deliver core services," Ellerbock added. "We need councillors with grit, willing to step up and deliver for the community, not serve personal ambitions or political stepping stones."

"We can't solve today's challenges with yesterday's leadership. It's time for fresh, untainted new councillors to step up and lead Indigo Shire into a better future," said Ellerbock.

Indigo Community Voice urges the council to elect a new Mayor and Deputy Mayor who can bring the necessary business acumen and genuine community representation to the forefront.

Herb Ellerbock

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