

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **Sacking of Shellharbour Council**

Wollongong Against Corruption supports the sacking of the incompetent and heavy handed Shellharbour Council. "The community of the Illawarra is fed up with the way Labor dominated Councils have destroyed democracy in the Illawarra" according to WAC secretary Graham Larcombe.

"Decent and honest members of the Labor Party must reflect on how such a narrow and self-interested group captured the ALP in our region. ALP members and supporters feel betrayed. The ALP has lost the trust of ordinary people. It will take them a long time, if ever, for them to re-establish any credibility with our community".

The Labor Government is making the people of Shellharbour pay the price by denying them the right to vote in local government elections until 2012. "As with the residents of Wollongong, the people of Shellharbour have had their democratic rights taken away because of the sins of ALP members" said Graham Larcombe "The problem is not with the decent people of Wollongong and Shellharbour, it is with the dominant group in the Labor Party which treats people with contempt".

Wollongong Against Corruption expresses its strong support for the people of Shellharbour and the decent Councillors that stood up to Shellharbour Council.

"The Local Government Act needs to be amended to limit the time a Minister can prevent residents from voting in local elections. There is a strong perception in the community that the Minister for Local Government has removed people's democratic rights until 2012 in order to protect the ALP from a catastrophe in democratically held elections in Wollongong and Shellharbour". "There is only one way to fight corruption and incompetence in the Illawarra, and that is by strengthening democracy and not destroying it."

WAC will offer support to residents of Shellharbour and campaign for a restoration of their democratic right to vote and calls on the Minister to announce an election date for both Councils in 2008. What has happened in Wollongong and Shellharbour reinforces the need for a Royal Commission into political corruption in NSW and our demand that residents have their democratic rights returned.

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