Dear Delaney,

The local governments saga is like a never ending story.

Lord Mayor of Melbourne can’t distinguish between his personal credit card and his overly generous Council supplied credit card. Now forgive me for being cynical but it smacks of a person who needs to be moved on.

This is just one public servant in a position of trust and holds a very prestigious office caught double dipping. Just how long has this been going on? One asks.

There is a culture within the Local Council arena of entitlement by senior public servants, snouts in the public purse trough, and a very tight closed circle making sure only those of their ilk mindset and told prior to a position is to pocket vacant these in the click get the job, thus closing the money trough to outsiders or new blood entering.

One must congratulate the Victorian Labor Party for having the guts to expose rate capping. Let’s hope they don’t stop there and extend it CEB’s wages senior staff and unacceptable extra benefits the award themselves.
These people hold the general public in contempt when challenged and follow a standard code of rhetoric (in other words bullshit) to not answer a question properly, until this and many other anomalies are addressed one can never trust any CEOs, Mayors or senior public servants with access to credit cards etc.

This so called code of Conduct only extends to the general public time and time again complaints to the Minister are swept under the carpet, never is the complainant ever interviewed prior or after an investigation is conducted.

Yes again public servants protecting one of their own a complete overhaul of the local government act is needed accountability transparency must be given the utmost priority there also must be clear guide lines available to the public in laymans terms their rights.

The penalties for CEO’s and senior staff who abuse their positions must be upgraded, enforced, and made public this must be made law and written into all contracts of all senior staff (ie) CEO’s who ultimately hold the highest position of power within Councils.
A complete audit of all Council departments, staff numbers who does what are they fully qualified or are they learning on the job, but being paid top wages while they do so. Where and what Council funds and grants are spent? Are we getting value for our rate money or is it swindled on touchy-feely useless groups? Arts, landcare, and all green agendas while core infrastructure that one expects Council to attend to before any bullshit minority groups touchy-feely crap.

Road, footpaths, drains, sewerage, upgrade meals on wheels, home help, baby health centres, good urban planning, etc.

Not global warming, gay rights, aboriginal rights, Arts movement, green renewable energy, when to burn off forest, fire hazards or not, any state of federal government or international issues which don't effect Shires directly. Must be ostensibly discouraged. The key word is LOCAL Councils not international Council. There are other avenues to express one view's without using local Council using Council as a platform to do so.
When a CEO or senior staff member applies for another position at another Shire Council the elected Council Mayor or Councillors should be given the right to be allowed to approach his or her former Council employees on any level to enquire and obtain an honest report, account from those who had to work under him or her without fear of any kind of prosecution or retaliation from Council.

Why you may ask?

It is quite evident that incompetentbullies and CEOs with their own agendas and wishing to feather their own pockets via Council funds either by unscrupulous means by awarding themselves pay rises and benefits rubber stamped by dumb, stupid, enefy[?], useless, moronic Councillors without asking for performance reports from residents from those who pay their wages, the waste of money on useless projects, VCAT appeals etc, consultants etc, employ the right staff from the very outset like Councils once did it worked then it should also work today.

Instead we get useless dummies who cost us a fortune who rely on Consultants to do their jobs.
In closing, what it all boils down to is the ordinary ratepayer resident is the one who pays for all this via rates and taxes and he or she has been denied true, honest representation in local councils. The most vulnerable within our communities are either on or below the poverty line due to these fat cats greed with continual outrageous rate hikes over the past decade and they can no longer afford to pay for the basic needs of life.

Ratecapping must be enforced across the board; no council should be exempt from it for what ever reason.

Given my previous dealing with this government department I am sorry to say “nothing” at all will change. CEOs will be overpaid business as usual. You will collect your pay, slap yourselves on each others backs as a report will be made still nothing will happen.

Dumb 2 Dumber would do a better job than some.

Yours respectfully,

William J. Bagliss.