

6 May 2021

Frequently asked questions

Why hasn't he been sacked?

The only person who has the authority to dismiss an Elected Member is the Minister for Local Government

What is the penalty?

Can we disclose anything? Other than public censure? That he has been asked to reimburse the City for the cost of the panel proceedings and how much it is?

Penalties can only be imposed by the Standards Panel. Once the penalties have been carried out, they are recorded in a Register of Complaints on the City's website.

What happens to the fine money? Is it kept by the DLG or the City? What do they do with it?

It reimburses the City for the cost of the panel proceedings

What is public censure?

A censure is an expression of severe disapproval in a formal statement.

Why is he allowed to continue in his role?

An Elected Member can continue in their role until they retire or stand down of their own choice, are voted out of office or are dismissed by the Minister for Local Government.

How can the City of Cockburn seriously think its reputation has not been impacted by Cr Separovich's behaviour?

At the time of Cr Separovich's social media comments last June, Mayor Logan Howlett said "Elected members are elected to serve the community, and this type of commentary is unacceptable."

The City of Cockburn also published a notice on the front page of its website wholly condemning racist comments by its Elected Members in any forum.

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The City encouraged people to make a formal complaint if they believed an Elected Member had made discriminatory or offensive comments.

Will council take any further action?

There is no further action available to the City. Electors are encouraged to have their say on local matters, including the conduct of councillors, by getting involved in Local Government elections which are held every four years, by either casting a vote or standing as a candidate.

Who can I contact?

Please email customer@cockburn.wa.gov.au if you have any further queries on this matter.

If you wish to complain about an Elected Members conduct, these will be addressed in accordance with the City's complaint protocols.

Any breaches of the Local Government Administration (Code of Conduct) Regulations 2021 are dealt with either by the City of Cockburn Council or by the Local Government Standards Panel, depending on the type of complaint..