

CEO sacking: secret meetings, missing docs and payout shock



The more is revealed about the sacking of the WCC chief, the more questions arise. Stock image.

Carol Altmann – The Terrier

For those who missed my post stream during the final meeting of the Warrnambool City Council, here is the string of revelations regarding the dumping of the CEO:

Good god – this is getting interesting! Cr Kylie Gaston has asked a number of punchy questions to the Mayor about the whole sacking of the CEO saga.

We are now learning:

1. Nine applications during the recruitment of the previous CEO went missing. The recruitment agency had an IT problem. (I hope we got a refund from that recruitment agency).

2. The council and CEO Schneider met on 21 February to discuss issues with the CEO's performance.
3. Crs Cassidy and Herbert went to Peter Schneider's private house on a Sunday morning on February 23 to discuss issues that Cr Cassidy had with the CEO. Cr Herbert set up this meeting. Cr Cassidy says she now considers it was unprofessional to have this meeting at Mr Schneider's house.
4. Cr Gaston says councillors didn't realise what they signed up for with the CEO's contract that would allow such a big payout of around \$364,000.
5. Another big allegation – that the former CEO signed up long-term contracts of several senior managers knowing that he was leaving. I wonder who these people were? (Ms King – the new acting CEO – was not among them.)
6. Cr Sycopoulis is raising whether the CEO payout is the end of the matter or if extra legal fees may be coming, if there is legal action by Peter Schneider.
7. Cr Gaston says a performance review of the former CEO in May was not favourable and that, in effect, his sacking was not "out of the blue".
8. It sounds like the WCC didn't know what it signed up for with the former CEO's contract. (Good grief). The size of the payout came as a surprise. Not good enough councillors.
9. Bring on the election – there are no winners here.