

To: Wingecarribee Council

Re : Cancellation Wingello Garden Initiative Opening Sat 14th Nov

Att: Ann Prendergast

Hello Ann I am writing to you in response to a recent cancellation of an event that our community group www.ourlandourwaterourfuture.org was assisting and supporting.

I received notification last Sunday of the cancellation of this event on six days notice. Simona Angeli hired my services and asked for our groups assistance several months ago. We have been in communication about this event and its organisation for some time.

I have spoken with Simona about the reasons for this cancellation as it has impacted my work schedule and I would like to please ask the council for an explanation.

I have seen some correspondence with the council and it is my view that Simona did all she possibly could to organize this event with the council's full support and blessing.

I am concerned at the council's handling of this event and find myself somewhat confused by this matter. I cannot replace events on short notice, nor can I recover any income. Usually the person hiring me is responsible but it appears in this case, that the person hiring me has done nothing wrong. The Wingecarribee Council has forced the cancellation of the event through introducing a last minute development application (DA) unknown to Simona, or any of the local community, whom thought they had done everything correctly.

A number of council representatives have been involved in this process but the last member of council Nick Wilton came forward with a DA request that was not possible to complete in time. The irony of this situation is that this event has been cancelled because of an unknown DA requirement, not informed by council until far too late, and associated with fire risk. It is also worth noting that the RFS were going to attend this event and that it is located close to the local fire evacuation area.

Councils should not introduce last minute requirements in this manner as it has negative repercussions for all the good people involved. Councils also have the power to issue temporary development applications for situations like this and they also have the discretion to exercise some good old common sense.

I understand it is possible that council members may not have all the necessary skills to handle some bureaucratic processes and that perhaps Nick Wilton has entered last minute with those DA skills? But this then begs the question if the council does not even know how to get through the legal requirements for a small community garden , what hope is there for anyone in the community wishing to do anything?

OLOWOF Inc is dedicated to supporting constructive community initiatives and we do all I can to help local communities with events of this nature. We are a non for profit incorporated association and it is part of our constitution to address things of this nature. It is our duty to inform the council that we feel their behavior is inappropriate and that it has impacted more than just the local Wingello Community.

I would like the council to consider this feedback as it appears inconceivable for any good community group to start any kind of sustainable, ecological event in your area. Remembering this was only a small local Wingello volunteer initiative for a community garden, nothing more.

Much respect

Paul Robert Burton (PRB)

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President OLOWOF Inc

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