

Media Response

15 April 2025

BACKGROUND ONLY (OFF THE RECORD)

Councillors are entitled to their allowance while taking a leave of absence to run in state and federal elections. I have attached our updated Candidature Policy for your reference ([A11887005](#)).

Your first question on council resources and your question about whether Councillor Garad was paid her allowance when she ran in the Yarraman ward by-election are best directed to Councillor Garad.

Regarding your second question, we have processes in place to resolve workplace complaints in a way that protects everyone involved. If we did receive such a complaint, it would not be appropriate for us to share the details publicly.

ENDS

Media Enquiry

15 April 2025

From Dandenong Journal

Following Cr Garad's leave of absence for the upcoming election, she sat in the gallery.

Can council comment on whether Garad is using council resources for her election campaign?

Garad is also looking to file a workplace complaint against the Council for her lack of protection against "systematic bullying" in the workplace by a councillor.

Were there any internal actions carried by the ceo against any bullying directed towards Garad?

Can the council also confirm whether or not Garad put her councillors allowance on hold in 2023 when she ran for the Yarraman ward by-election?

Are Cr's required to put their allowance on hold under the council's policies?