

07/06/2018

The Editor  
The Border Mail  
Wodonga, VIC

Dear Editor,

**Re: The Death of Democracy (appeared 08/06/2018)**

The letters' page and articles in the local press reflect the growing disillusionment and frustration of residents with Indigo Shire Council, a council that is becoming increasingly aloof, arrogant and arbitrary.

It is time that Indigo Shire Councillors were reminded that Indigo Shire is not a province of Putin's Russia or North Korea. Australia is supposed to be one of the great liberal democracies of the world that puts great value on citizens' rights including the right of free speech. Instead of upholding these values Indigo Shire Council tries very hard to censure ratepayers, threatening them with ejection from meetings if they ask embarrassing questions. Political correctness rules. Council meetings and community forums are choreographed. Dissent is not tolerated.

Citizens have every right to publicly question and criticise councillors and bureaucrats and to expect their concerns to be properly acted upon. If Indigo Shire Councillors are not prepared to uphold our democratic values and govern for all of the community instead of just for the "favoured few" it is time they moved on. Unfortunately they are not listening.

Yours sincerely,

John Harvey  
Beechworth VIC