

Almost a year has passed since the Auburn Council Elections

So what has your vote done for Auburn during this time

On 27 March 2004, the residents of Auburn voted in a council consisting of 2 RAGAA councillors, 1 No Dump, 1 Greens, 4 Labor, 2 Liberal & 2 Unity.

To this date (1st February 2005),

To this date both the Labor and Liberal Parties have voted together solidly as a block (*often with the Unity party.*)

This block or coalition voted in a Mayor (Labor) and Deputy Mayor (Liberal).

Should a Liberal councillor be elected as mayor for next term, (*it should be noted that one of the Liberals is a property developer and the other is his brother-in-law*) he will have the casting vote in any decision where there is a six-six vote. In other words, a developer may hold the balance of power on Auburn Council next term. Remember the huge expense the Liberals went to during the last council election and everybody was asking why and who was funding them???.

This "marriage" of Liberal and Labor councillors on Auburn Council has not differed in its voting on any one occasion which makes it obvious to us that the four Labor and two Liberal councillors have formed a coalition. They continue to vote on council issues and particularly on proposed developments as a "block". Of the coalition 'members' only the Labor Mayor, Councillor Chris Cassidy, has voted against the coalition on a development application (he has done this twice since council was voted in).

If you voted Liberal or Labor in the last council elections you effectively voted for the same group. This group are willing to ignore their individual party's position in order to achieve aims which are not always representative of their constituents. (*The Unity party has voted on most occasions with this group to further strengthen this coalition which doesn't always represent the people of Auburn.*)

This coalition has demonstrated a lack of representation by approving such developments as the 7-storey apartments soon to be built almost over the entire eastern side of the shopping centre (including the area known as the Council Carpark) on Woodburn Rd Berala.

We ask all residents who voted for the Liberal, Labor or Unity parties during the last council elections, to keep these political allegiances in mind.

For evidence, see Auburn Council's Ordinary Meeting Business Papers at this location:

<http://www.auburn.nsw.gov.au/acweb2.nsf/BP-fullcouncilmeeting?openframeset>

RAGAA encourages residents of Auburn to be alert and aware of what happens on your council, because council plays a strong part in forming your neighbourhood.

This is your town.

If you want to protect your local area against over-crowding and inappropriate development, you must be vigilant and active.

Let your voice be heard.