



North Bendalong, Bendalong, Berringer Lake, Cunjurong Point, Manyana

---

Email: rhva.secretary@gmail.com  
Phone (Chris Hayes) 0419 203044  
PO Box 2015 Bendalong NSW 2539

3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025

The Hon. Ron Hoenig, MP  
Minister for Local Government  
GPO Box 5341  
SYDNEY NSW 2001  
CC Liza Butler, MP

Dear Minister Hoenig

The Red Head Villages Association (RHVA) is the Shoalhaven City Council Community Consultative Body for the 5 villages of Manyana, Bendalong, Nth Bendalong, Cunjurong Pt and Berringer Lake. The RHVA supports the many community voices in the Shoalhaven who are outraged by the perceived serious conflict of interest and flawed executive recruitment process demonstrated by Shoalhaven City Council in the appointment of the new SCC CEO.

The RHVA is concerned that the appointment of the new CEO has not followed a transparent and rigorous executive recruitment process. The Mayor disclosed what appears to be a significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in relation to the decision to appoint Mr Constance to the role, noting in her declaration "... one of the persons (Mr Constance) has been known to me for in excess of 25 years". In accordance with the Office of Local Government's Model Code of Conduct 2020, these types of declared conflicts are to be dealt with by the councilor not participating in consideration of, or decision making in relation to, the matter, in accordance with Section 5.10 of the Code. In this case, not only did the Mayor participate in the matter, it was her vote that got Mr Constance across the line and appointed as CEO.

The apparent conflict of interest demonstrated by the Mayor is of serious concern and undermines community confidence in the competent governance of the Shoalhaven region. The RHVA therefore lodges our concern with the Minister and supports the investigation of this incident by the Office of Local Government.

Yours sincerely

Chris Hayes  
President  
RHVA Inc