

Facebook page Cr Tim Baxter

Unedited cut and paste, 8 November 22

MAYORAL ELECTION

I've had quite a few emails, phone calls and texts asking me about the upcoming election for Mayor and Deputy Mayor on Wednesday. There's a lot of speculation going around, but I can tell you now that it's a foregone conclusion.

I will run for Mayor on Wednesday, and I will lose.

The conservatives have had a majority on this council since last year when Cr Cunsolo joined them to vote Cr Pearl into the mayoralty. They will again exercise that power to install Cr Cunsolo as mayor, and put either Cr Bond or Cr Pearl in as deputy. Given that Cr Cunsolo is in her first term, has never been Deputy Mayor or Mayor, has no media experience or training, and has never even chaired a council or planning committee meeting before, the Deputy Mayor will hold a position of significant influence.

I've been warning people for months that Cr Cunsolo had joined the conservatives. Her voting record has closely matched theirs for some time. Some people have pointed to my role as Deputy Mayor as being some kind of proof of a "balanced" council. This is untrue. I only became Deputy Mayor, reluctantly, because nobody wanted to be Deputy to Cr Pearl. We all knew he only wanted the flashy and high-profile elements of the job, and that the Deputy Mayor would be left doing all the real work of Mayor. This has proven to be the case.

So the conservatives have decided to give up any illusion of working with the whole council. By installing Cr Cunsolo and Cr Bond (or perhaps Pearl) they will take a sweep of both top positions. They are no longer content to rule, they wish to reign.

At a time when the Liberal Party vote has crashed dismally at a federal and state level, when we're only weeks away from the possibility of the libs not holding a single seat in the local area, the Liberal Party has taken control of Port Phillip Council for the first time in its history.