

## OFFICIAL

I want to start by saying my response to the Minister's decision is challenging.

I was elected to Council in July 2023, so my impression of the issues occurring are only based on what I have seen in the last few months.

Full details are confidential, and because of this I do not feel I can comment with full clarity.

I will leave this for the Councillors who have worked through the past three years.

Here is what I can say about me.

I am passionate about Strathbogie Shire.

I first served this community as a Councillor from 2003 to 2008 and again from 2012 to 2016, representing several wards.

I also served as a Shire of Euroa councillor before the Shire of Strathbogie was formed in 1994.

I am a businessman with a strong history in our Shire and my goal is always to ensure our region progresses.

During the past few months, my ward representation was in Lake Nagambie.

It is clear this part of our Shire has strong development potential and is filled with progressive residents.

However, I believe this has also been to Nagambie's detriment.

I can only describe the lack of support provided to Lake Nagambie representatives as jealousy and this had led to the community's thoughts and wishes being ignored through the Council meeting process.

Finally, I would like to comment on the claims of toxicity in the workplace.

I have witnessed challenging debate.

It is painfully obvious too many Councillor-only meetings have created separation between Councillors and the administration that is unproductive.

I believe, had this been handled better, by a more experienced leader in the Chamber, many of the issues outlined in the Municipal Monitor's report would not have occurred.

- **Robin Weatherald**