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I would like to first thank the Minister for Local Government for listening to our calls for help.

We have been lucky to have worked with two highly experienced municipal monitors during our Council term and from both I have learnt so much.

I would also like to thank our CEO Julie Salomon and the executive leadership team for the significant support they have provided me.

I have loved being a Councillor, but it has also been hugely challenging.

I have struggled with a lack of trust between Councillors, and I have struggled with the poor treatment of each other, and officers, by some Councillors.

I have been threatened.

I have felt targeted by the people who I am meant to be working with to achieve great things for our community.

Despite this, I have been committed to learning and good governance.

Unfortunately, I do not believe some of my colleagues have had the same commitment.

Almost 30 code of conduct breaches and hundreds of thousands of ratepayers' money wasted because they are not willing to listen.

I have heard community engagement described as "fluffy crap" because some Councillor didn't want to listen to the community, instead thinking they knew best.

I think people should be involved in decisions that affect them.

On this point, I have also been challenged by some in our community whose views do not align with my personal views.

On this one, I would like to urge people to participate positively with Councillors and officers.

I am incredibly proud of the work we have done with the Taungurung Land and Waters Council, our declaration of a climate emergency, our decision to fly the Rainbow Flag on IDAHOBIT Day and to no longer participate in activities on January 26 – a day that causes great pain for so many people.

I am equally proud of our significant progress in community engagement and the genuine opportunity for our community to share their thoughts, feedback, and advice.

The establishment of our Community Panel is putting our small rural shire at the forefront of community engagement.

We are also leading the way in considering the environment and climate change in everything we do.

Along with this we have achieved infrastructure upgrades such as the Rockies Footbridge, accessible toilets at the Friendlies, streetscape upgrades and works are progressing on the link to the arboretum.

I love the Pitch My Project initiative that is giving our community real input into our budget.

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I love our cloth nappy rebate and our work on the Greening Euroa Project.

I am devastated by today's announcement by the Minister, ideally I would love to continue to serve my community, but I truly believe it is most constructive way forward.

It is in the best interest of our community and the health and wellbeing of Councillors and Officers.

Recent significant breaches in confidentiality have confirmed for me, this is the right decision.

Code of conduct breaches, confidentiality breaches, poor governance, and the inability to engage productively with each other and the Council administration, is unacceptable.

Councillor behaviour has cost ratepayers more than hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Money that could have been saved if we had just listened, learnt and been respectful humans.

Like my colleagues, Mayor Laura Binks, and Cr Chris Raeburn, I believe more needs to be done to support Councillors and Officers who are not breaching the code of conduct.

The consequences of these breaches should not be allowed to disappear after resignation.

We need to be able to be transparent with our community, to build trust and understanding in those doing the right thing.

Like my colleagues, Cr Binks and Cr Raeburn, I have not had to resign to make the consequences of a Code of Conduct breach go away and I refuse to be the trigger for a \$90,000 by-election.

- Sally Hayes-Burke