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Media Release

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BCC policy Oks personal attacks during election campaign

Lord Mayor Graham Quirk has approved a new Brisbane City Council policy that gives carte blanche to candidates and political parties to undertake attacks on the "personal affairs" of opponents during next year's Council campaign.

Councillor for Tennyson Ward, Nicole Johnston, said the Lord Mayor had approved a Voluntary Code of Conduct for the BCC election in March 2012 at Civic Cabinet on Monday and was now rushing the policy through for Council approval.

"The Liberal National Party's Lord Mayor, Graham Quirk, has failed to consult with me or other Councillors about the proposed Code of Conduct and is now intent on rushing in a toothless policy," Councillor Johnston said.

"At a time when the LNP at a State level are ruling out attacks on personal matters during election campaigning, the LNP Council team have drafted a policy that it enshrines it as fair practice. Why won't Lord Mayor, Graham Quirk, make the same unequivocal commitment as his predecessor, Campbell Newman?"

"Personal attacks - 'can-do' seems to be the LNP Council team's standard approach."

"Questions must be asked about why Lord Mayor, Graham Quirk, refuses to categorically rule out engaging in any personally motivated attacks during the Council election?"

"If the Lord Mayor, Graham Quirk, a member of the LNP's ruling State Executive, condones this sort of behaviour, it begs the questions are the LNP really serious about stopping dirty political campaigns?"

Councillor Johnston said she had written to the Chief Executive Officer, Colin Jensen, supporting a clean and fair campaign, proper consultation with all Councillors and for any policy to apply to campaign and party teams.

File note: on Wednesday, 12 October 2011, Campbell Newman, published the following statement on the LNP's website "I have asked the LNP to shred the material gathered and that clear policies and procedures be developed to ensure the campaign is fought on issues not people's personal lives."

For further information please call Nicole Johnston 34038605 or 0407039198

