

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Council sells us down river

At last the spotlight has fallen on Port Phillip Council's CEO David Spokes. Council staff like Mr Spokes get paid exorbitant salaries, possibly more than most council CEOs.

These people rule to a different agenda than ratepayers, the people they represent and who pay their wages. The outrageous spending of \$800,000 of ratepayers' money on clairvoyants is unbelievable – not only for the squandering of money but also for the staff attrition it caused.

When you see such a waste of money, which includes the refurbishment of three town halls, the sacking of two St Kilda triangle architects, the St Kilda triangle fiasco in general, the closure of two swimming pools, the council's attempted grab of park land for the "untouchable" nursing home and the poor child care, we shouldn't countenance the continued employment of such people or the re-election of councillors who protect them.

I suggest all ratepayers visit a council meeting to see how the public is mostly ignored. Take a look at the silver service meals and the fully stocked bar – all at ratepayers' expense.

Port Phillip needs to be dragged into the 21st century to embrace public responsibility and good governance.

Peter Stroud

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