



Goomalling Residents
& Ratepayers Assoc.
Working Party
C/- 8 Brown St
Carnarvon WA 6701
GoomaRates1@yahoo.com

Re: Peter Bentley - Conflict of Interest

Our Ref: GRAL001

Attn:

Councillor,

it has come to the attention of the Goomalling Residents and Ratepayers Association Working Party that Goomalling CEO Peter Bentley has entered into a domestic arrangement with the Shire contracted ranger Gloria Robinson.

As Gloria is responsible for the issuing of legal documents in the form of infringement notices, work orders and notices of intended legal action, we believe that this situation represents a serious conflict of interest that may negatively impact the community. Whatever chain of command has been set up within the Shire office it is a worry that the buck stops with Peter and he is ultimately responsible for monitoring her performance and recommending to council the ongoing renewal of her contract and terms.

The Working Party is concerned that should a ranger related dispute with a resident be escalated, Peter would be put in a difficult position. If legal action is taken by a Goomalling resident (or God forbid a class action - you only need 7) as a result of a ranger related dispute, we are concerned that the Shire will lose out financially with the ultimate burden being shouldered by the Ratepayer.

We are aware of one written complaint against the ranger that has not been actioned by our CEO and we fear that there may be others.

Peter's integrity must be protected at all costs.

As all rangers are presumably doing the same job and enforcing the same laws, wouldn't it be prudent to contact the West Australian Rangers Association with view to getting a different ranger in to service the area? Its a simple precaution that would remove any question of the conflict of interest.

regards,

**Adam Harris – Spokesperson
Goomalling Ratepayers Assoc. Working Party
November 1st 2021**