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Candidates forum

At last week's Candidates Forum organised by the Chamber of Commerce, the Mayor said he had written officially to those candidates in the forthcoming Council election who are not currently members of Council asking them not to state their position on an issue (the landfill) because they are not in possession of the facts. It seems to me that it is a fundamental democratic principle that candidates can state their position on an issue so voters can make an informed choice at the ballot box.

So how is it that the Mayor can tell candidates how to respond to issues raised by the public?

Secondly it is the Council's duty to ensure the public is fully informed on important issues.

The Mayor admits that the Council over which he presides has failed in that duty, just as they have failed in their duty to responsibly manage Council finances. Fortunately most candidates have done their research and have publicly stated that they do not support the current location of the landfill just upstream from a World Heritage Area.

Thank you to the Armidale Chamber of Commerce for organising the candidates' forum last week, and thank you to the candidates for bringing their visions and solutions. It was most informative.

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