



WENTWORTH COURIER

# Councillor apologises about 'disrespectful' remarks made about 'old people'

Anton Rose, Wentworth Courier

July 31, 2019 03:14 pm



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A Woollahra councillor facing backlash for comments made about elderly people in the eastern suburbs has apologised for his remarks.



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Councillor Anthony Marano had earlier this month said residents rallying against a proposed skatepark at Rushcutters Bay were “old people with nothing else to do with their time” and that they would “be dead in 10 years”.

Last week he issued a formal apology at a council meeting, claiming the remarks were not intended to hurt older members of the community.

The comments were made as the feud over the project reared its head again after those against the \$1.1 million proposal tabled a petition with more than 1000 signatures in state parliament.

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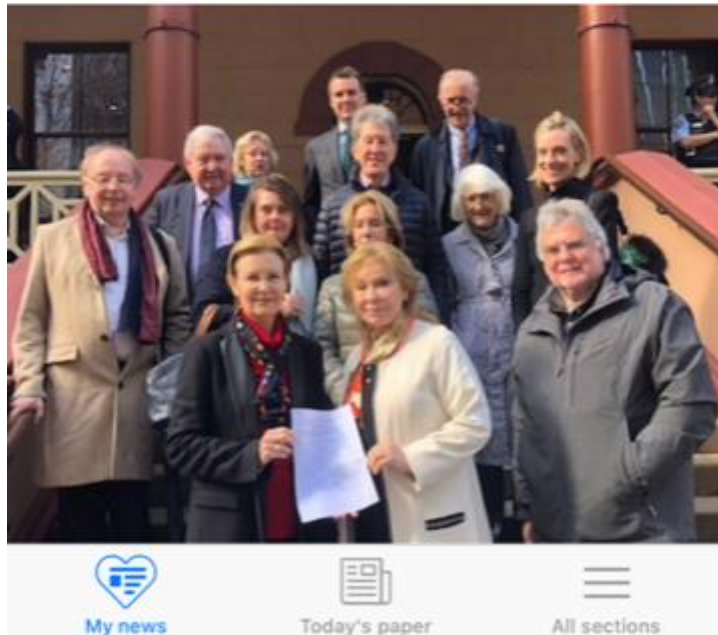
Cr Marano has been a vocal supporter of the skatepark since it was first flagged in 2017. Picture: John Appleyard

“It did sound disrespectful,” he said.

“I have no issue with elderly people especially when they agree with what I want; I miss my grandfather every day.

“I love older people but you can’t please everybody.”

Cr Marano, in the days after the furore, told the *Wentworth Courier* he “wasn’t trying to turn it into a battle of old vs young” after claiming the skatepark was one of many council “would be building all over the place”.





The Darling Point Society, with Vaucluse MP Gabrielle Upton, had tabled a petition against the skatepark in state parliament last month. Picture: Supplied

Woollahra Council had then moved to clarify those comments, with mayor Peter Cavanagh saying there were no plans to build more within the local government area.



Works on the skatepark at Rushcutters Bay have been halted by an interim heritage order handed down in January, banning any construction on the site for the next 12 months.

Former prime minister Malcolm Turnbull and deputy Labor leader Tanya Plibersek have waded into the battle over the years, with the park occupying both the electorates of Wentworth and Sydney.

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