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CLR Natalee Johnston Announces Resignation from Shoalhaven City Council

Nowra, 11 August 2025 – CLR Natalee Johnston, Ward 3 Councillor, today announced her resignation from Shoalhaven City Council, effective 12 August 2025. This decision follows concerns regarding the culture of the elected council and its ability to provide effective governance.

"After careful consideration and deliberation, I have concluded that I can no longer effectively serve the community in this capacity," said CLR Johnston. "My decision stems from fundamental concerns about the culture of the elected council, which I believe has hindered our ability to make consistent, considered, and effective decisions in the best interests of our residents."

CLR Johnston said, "I have based all my decisions within the chamber on the principles of good governance, financial considerations, staff recommendations, and community needs. When these factors conflict, I have clearly articulated my reasoning for my voting position. Unfortunately, this approach has not been adopted by others in the chamber."

CLR Johnston cited several key factors in her resignation decision:

- Inconsistent decision-making and block voting among some councillors have eroded public trust and transparency, coupled with concerns about pre-meeting caucusing by one group before each ordinary meeting.
- A workplace culture within the elected council that includes bullying behaviours and does not align with the standards of professionalism expected of councillors.
- Concerns about bias in council debates and deliberations that may compromise fair representation of all community members.

"The residents of Shoalhaven deserve a council that operates with transparency, consistency, and fairness," CLR Johnston continued. "I hope my departure will encourage reflection and positive change within the chamber regarding councillor behaviours and decision-making processes."

During her tenure on council, CLR Johnston advocated strongly for the community on many occasions, including matters relating to Family Daycare, Character Statements, Sanctuary Point Library, and Depot Beach.

CLR Johnston expressed gratitude to community members, especially those in Ward 3. "I thank all those who engaged, supported, and put their trust in me to represent them. I believe that within the current council environment, I am unable to effect the positive outcomes our community deserves, and that my skills and time can be put to better use supporting other community organisations."

The resignation takes effect on 12 August 2025.

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