

COMMUNITY OUTRAGE AT COUNCIL

HOW DARE THEY?

Victor Harbor residents woke up this week to discover something almost unbelievable: their own council has formally asked the Premier to stop over-60s from moving here.

Not a rumour. Not a misunderstanding. A documented council decision.

According to The Advertiser, the council voted to write to the Premier and Opposition Leader asking that Victor Harbor be excluded from Labor's proposed stamp-duty exemption for downsizers over 60 — a policy designed to help seniors move into smaller homes. The council claims it cannot cope with "any more elderly residents" and that more retirees would "undercut an urgent mission to lower the town's average age."

Let's be clear: nearly half of Victor Harbor's population is already over 60, and these residents are the backbone of the community — the volunteers, the ratepayers, the donors, the carers, the people who built this town. And now the council wants to slam the door in their faces.

A COUNCIL AT WAR WITH ITS OWN COMMUNITY

The article reports that seniors in Victor Harbor called the idea "crazy" and laughed at it at the Bowling Club. One resident said plainly:

"Over 60s contribute just as much to the community as everybody else."

Yet the council — led on this issue by two 27-year-old councillors —(Cr Brayden Mann & Cr Nick McKenzie) insists that retirees are the problem, not the lifeblood of the town.

This is the same council that:

- Wants retirees to fund a multi-million-dollar youth sports precinct
- Wants retirees to fund a multi-million-dollar car park
- Wants retirees to fund a multi-million-dollar arts complex
- Wants retirees to absorb multi-generational debt for projects they will barely use

And now, unbelievably, it wants to stop retirees from moving here at all.

Who exactly does this council think pays the rates?

It certainly isn't the under-30 demographic they're so desperate to attract.

THE COUNCIL'S LOGIC DOESN'T ADD UP

The council claims Victor Harbor doesn't have enough GPs or health services to support more seniors. But this is the same council that:

- Can't balance its own budget
- Runs multi-million-dollar operating deficits
- Loses money on almost every asset it touches — the Horse & Tram, the cinema, the Town Hall, the aquatic centre
- Continues to increase executive salaries while crying poor

If the council can't manage the assets, it already has, why is it trying to micromanage who is allowed to live here?

And why is it blaming retirees for its own financial mismanagement?

THE COMMUNITY IS NOT BUYING IT

The Advertiser's own poll shows 82% of respondents oppose the council's position, supporting the right of seniors to choose where they live. Only 18% supported the council's attempt to keep retirees out.

Even younger residents quoted in the article acknowledged that Victor Harbor has always been an older community — and that this is part of its character, not a crisis.

The council's attempt to "lower the town's average age" is not a strategy.

It's social engineering.

And it's being done against the wishes of the very people who fund this town.

ELECTIONS ARE COMING — AND ACCOUNTABILITY IS OVERDUE

Victor Harbor goes to the polls in October 2026.

This election will decide whether the town continues down this path of arrogance, delusion, and financial recklessness — or whether residents reclaim their council.

This is the moment to clean house.

This is the moment to remove the rot.

This is the moment to elect a council that respects its community instead of insulting it.

Your vote has never mattered more.

Terry Andrews (Chair)

Council Watch Fleurieu Inc.



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