



Today Mr Justice Riordan decided that Cr Coral Ross was not eligible to be Darebin's MAV delegate.

I am naturally disappointed that His Honour decided that I was not eligible.

I am, however, truly humbled that Darebin councillors unanimously voted to make me their MAV delegate. Darebin showed true leadership in appointing me their delegate. Had this been allowed it would have enabled me to have the opportunity to stand as President in the MAV election.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Julian Burnside QC for providing his expert services pro-bono for an issue regarded in the public interest. I am also grateful to junior barrister Penny Harris and instructing solicitor Bill O'Shea who gave a considerable amount of their time pro-bono.

I am also thankful for the huge support and encouragement I have received from Mayors and councillors across the country. I wish to particularly thank the Australian Local Government Women's Association who have worked tirelessly in support of me.

I will remain as Interim President until the March 3 election and I would like to wish all candidates good luck in the upcoming election for President. The MAV President's role is a very important leadership position for the local government sector as a whole and the message that I have heard from our membership is that immediate reform is required to provide those Councils with more obvious value for their membership dollar.

As a MAV Board member for 6 years, Metro VP, ALGA Board member and now Interim President, I have pushed and started the reforms that our membership has been calling for. I am proud to have served the local government sector in these roles and more particularly as Interim MAV President.