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## A•S•U RELEASE

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**Australian Services Union Victorian Authorities & Services Branch [www.asuvic.asn.au](http://www.asuvic.asn.au)**  
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### **Frankston City Council wasting ratepayers' money during EBA process: ASU**

A letter sent to Frankston City Council CEO George Modrich - on behalf of Australian Services Union members at Frankston City Council – has urged management to remove ex-Organisational Development Manager Peter Blood from the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) negotiation process.

ASU members unanimously moved to remove Blood - who now runs his own Industrial Relations consulting practice – after he had retired from his position at Council, receiving Long Service Leave and other entitlements, before returning as a consultant at the Council.

ASU Organiser Lita Gillies believes that the Council is wasting ratepayers' money by re-hiring Blood.

“The ASU and its members see his appointment as double dipping. We do not support ratepayer's money being used to subsidise the ex-employee's new business. The move has also been supported by the non-union representatives.

“Peter Blood has already received his entitlements from Council, so it's time for him to move on and let the new Organisational Development Manager (Juanita Graves) take over. She is being paid a salary package of \$145,000, and if she is unable to negotiate an EBA on behalf of Council, we think Council is wasting a large chunk of ratepayers' money.”

“In the letter addressed to the CEO, ASU members put forward that Council hire a large number of employees in the Organisational Development area who are experienced in Industrial Relations as well as having the ability to negotiate the Frankston City Council EBA on behalf of Council. Members say that hiring consultants as an addition to this skill pool is a waste of Council's own resources and a waste of ratepayers' money.”

“ASU members are also worried that Blood's presence at the negotiation table will hold up the EBA process due to a conflict of interest. It's in his financial interest to ensure that the negotiation of the EBA drags out,” said Gillies.

“Blood's consultancy costs could be put to better use within Council, like being put towards a fair pay increase for the employees who supply a range of services to ratepayers. We support Blood's right to start a consultancy practice, but if he wanted to continue working at Frankston City Council, he shouldn't have retired. Ratepayer's money should not be used for Peter Blood's new business venture.”

**-ENDS-**

#### **For further information:**

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