

PAGAN AWARENESS NETWORK INC.

MEDIA RELEASE

March 24th 2004

Pagan leaflet investigated by Council Officers.

The Pagan Awareness Network Inc wants to know whether political pressure was brought to bear to have a leaflet being distributed throughout Casey investigated by Council by-laws officers.

Mayor Rob Wilson and deputy mayor Brian Oates are facing charges that they breached the Racial and Religious Tolerance Act in their comments about practitioners of Witchcraft and other Pagan religions last year. The leaflet in question has been put out via letterbox drops to Casey homes to make residents aware of the issues surrounding the case.

Casey PAN Inc Coordinator Gavin Andrew was contacted on Tuesday by local laws officers investigating allegations that leaflets had been placed under windshield wipers of about 20 cars outside the Municipal Offices during a Council meeting in February. Placing material under windshield wipers is a breach of EPA regulations.

Mr Andrew said: 'It's obviously politically motivated. This leaflet has been freely available for download off the Pagan Awareness Network Inc website since November last year. We've restricted ourselves to putting them in letterboxes, but anyone could be responsible for distributing them in other ways – including people connected to Wilson or Oates looking to muddy the waters a bit.'

PAN Inc President David Garland said: 'With our failed mediation last week and the pamphlets being of the greatest concern to Cr Oates. I'm not surprised that he and Cr Wilson are trying to place pressure on us in other ways.'

He added: 'These leaflets are obviously having an effect.'

[All names, places etc. have been spelled correctly.]

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