



JURORS LED BY DESIRE FOR BEST GOVERNANCE

GEELONG Council was dismissed by the Victorian Government.

NewDemocracy Foundation, an independent, nonpartisan research organisation, oversaw the Jurors' task, "How do we want to be democratically represented by a future Council?"

Mr Davis stated in Parliament, March 21 that the jury " ... were being led by the nose to predetermined outcomes."

One hundred jurors were randomly selected from 15,000 addresses representing census data for gender, age and geography. I was accepted. Ordinary citizens brought commonsense, skills and knowledge. We were informed by local, national and international bodies. Criminal juries seek truth. We sought solutions for best governance.

"There was a fix to make sure that (they) came back with a recommendation against a directly elected

major." It was a close vote. The tipping point was that councillors would most likely work productively together, if they were elected from among themselves. If there was a "fix", why did we include a proviso for a directly elected major?

All visitors were welcome to attend. We were not "led" by anyone. Mr Davis could have seen for himself if he had cared enough about Geelong to attend for even an hour.

**Caroline Danaher,
Ocean Grove**