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CEO Henry Inat Cleared of Bullying / Harassment Allegations

An independent investigation has exonerated Town of Gawler CEO Henry Inat from allegations of bullying and harassment.

Commercial law firm Piper Alderman completed the independent investigation and Council considered its findings at its 3 November 2020 Special Council meeting.

The independent investigation was conducted after Council resolved in July 2020 to formally investigate claims made in an Australian Services Union survey earlier in the year.

Council's Manager of Development, Environment and Regulatory Services, Ryan Viney, was Acting CEO for matters relating to the allegations and the independent investigation.

"The investigation conducted by Piper Alderman has concluded that allegations of bullying, harassment or inappropriate behaviour by the CEO were unfounded," said Mayor Karen Redman.

"Council is committed to providing a safe work environment for all staff. When the allegations were made in a union survey, Council sought an independent investigation into the matter.

"Council has clear policies setting expectations for staff conduct and the process for making a complaint.

"Piper Alderman has conducted an extensive investigation, providing all staff with an opportunity to confidentially express their views and concerns. As a result, it found that some Council staff are concerned by the enterprise bargaining process that commenced in mid-2019, and is still under way.

"Piper Alderman has provided recommendations specifically around this bargaining process that Council's executive team will now review."

"I am pleased that the independent investigation has found there was no substance to the concerns raised in the union survey," said CEO Henry Inat.

"I look forward to and remain committed to continuing my leadership of Council's administration and acting in the best interests of Gawler's ratepayers."

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The media may make contact with Mayor Karen Redman on 0421 839 359