

Voters labelled 'deluded'

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MULGRAVE MP Warren Pitt has launched a stinging attack on Cairns councillor Julia Leu and accused former Douglas Shire residents against the recent enforced amalgamation of being delusional.

"People who claim life was better under the former Douglas Shire Council and that de-amalgamation is the direction to head are deluding themselves,," Mr Pitt said.

Mr Pitt said it was only the March 15 local government elections that had saved the council from being sacked.

"If it had been another 12 months until they were due, then I'm quite sure that the State Government would have dismissed the Douglas Shire Council, and appointed an administrator," he said.

The Minister for Local Government also took aim at the former management of the shire, including Cr Leu, who was the acting chief executive for the 10 months before the election on March 15.

Mr Pitt's barrage comes on the heels of a recent public meeting where Cairns Regional Council's Douglas representative launched a bid to dissolve the unhappy arranged marriage between Cairns and the former Douglas Shire.

Cr Leu said she was surprised by Mr Pitt's comments, which included an accusation she was not working for the region as a whole.

She said she would requesting an urgent meeting with the MP.

"Since being elected I have been working up to 16 hours a day dealing with a whole range of constituent issues across Division 10 from Bloomfield River to Clifton Beach," she said.

"I am now simply responding to a community who are angry and are raising legitimate concerns."

Former Douglas Shire mayor Mike Berwick said he was appalled by Mr Pitt's allegations.

"You could not call it anything but vicious, it is a vicious attack on Julia," he said.

Cr Leu said she had called a public meeting at the Mossman offices of Cairns Regional Council on August 26 at 6.30pm to allow people "to express their opinion and discuss current issues and future solutions for the future of the former shire".