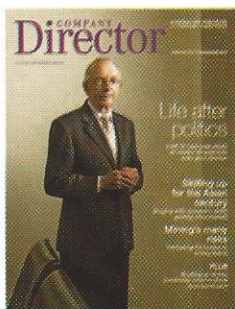


Letters to the editor



TONY FEATHERSTONE'S FEATURE "Life after politics" (*Company Director*, November 2012) provides some interesting views and comments on the subject.

The cynic in me – I guess as a voting taxpayer I am well qualified to be one – leads me to take a very cautious view of ex-politicians sitting on boards, both public and government.

People enter politics for many reasons and at different stages of their lives. Many have the benefit of a successful business career. Others, particularly those in Labor, "graduate" to the role via a trade union background.

The result is a parliament resembling a great big melting pot and as we have seen, particularly

in the current parliament, anything but good governance. If politicians wish to aspire to a post-political "career" as a director, then performance during their elected term must be capable of being measured. Yet on the other hand, a perceived "good politician" may not necessarily result in an effective director.

Most important of all is their willingness to undertake the *Company Directors Course*. Equally, a commitment to continuing professional development is a hallmark of the person demonstrating true engagement as a director.

Former NSW Opposition leader John Brogden's closing comment sums it up: "Boards don't want ex-politicians sitting at the table. They want directors who bring a range of skills and understand good governance. They don't want a former politician who still wishes he or she was in politics or won't let go of the past."

If the board nomination and selection process is robust and merit-based, then everyone, ex-politician or not, should have an equal chance.

ALLAN GIBSON GAICD
2126 Business Services

I WAS VERY INTERESTED TO READ the article "Skilling up for the Asian century" (*Company Director*, November 2012), which discussed how boards wanting to do business in Asia will need to gain members with significant experience in Asian markets. As Phil Ruthven pointed out in his article in the

LETTERS PRINTED ON THIS PAGE REFLECT THE VIEWS OF READERS AND NOT THOSE OF COMPANY DIRECTOR.

Please let us know what you think about your magazine and issues relating to directorship in Australia or suggest topics you would like to see covered in *Company Director*. We ask that all contributions be no more than 450 words and include your full name, title and address. These details can be withheld from print on request.

All letters to the editor should be sent to:

**THE EDITOR, COMPANY DIRECTOR,
LEVEL 30, 20 BOND STREET, SYDNEY, NSW 2000**
Or emailed to: editor@companydirectors.com.au