

# *Curl Curl*

## *Youth & Community Centre*

Media Release

30 May 2008

### Curl Curl rejects demolishing Community Centre

The Management Committee of the Curl Curl Youth and Community Centre has unanimously rejected the proposal by Warringah Administrator, Dick Persson to demolish their centre or knock down walls to make it a designated Netball Centre and have their car park turned into Netball Courts.

“The Management Committee are extremely concerned about Mr Persson’s proposal and the repercussions for our user groups” President of the Curl Curl Youth & Community Centre, Vincent De Luca said.

“Our Youth and Community Centre was built in 1966 by hardworking volunteers for everyone in the community, it is with concern that without any consultation, Mr Persson has proposed that it become a “designated netball facility”.

“The Centre over the last few years has had extensive renovations. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent to pay for a new sports floor, top class lighting, new bathrooms and change rooms, a new roof and new disabled access, toilets and showers. Mr Persson proposes to either demolish the centre and rebuild it as a designated netball centre or knock down major walls to facilitate an indoor netball court – this is a serious waste of ratepayers’ money”.

“Curl Curl Youth & Community Centre is one of the most used Youth and Community Centres in Warringah. We have one of the largest children’s play groups which serves hundreds of kids and their families from Mondays to Fridays, we have a huge indoor soccer competition which uses the centre several nights a week, basketball, youth groups and badminton also use the centre. Importantly, the State Government gave the Centre a grant in 1996 to make the centre fully accessible to the disabled, which achieved a disabled entry ramp and disabled toilet and shower facilities. We were thrilled to host training sessions for the Paralympic Olympic Basketball Teams in the lead up to Olympic Games held in Sydney”.

“The Centre has a Development Consent to build more rooms on the Abbott Road side of the Centre, such rooms would be for much needed storage, passive recreation for young people and senior citizens and to have a place for youth and family counselling. Council withdrew funds several years ago when Council was facing bankruptcy and put on the Local Government financial watch list and so the consent has stagnated. Instead of spending million of dollars demolishing the centre and rebuilding for just netball or knocking down walls to facilitate a netball court as Mr Persson proposes we would prefer that our development consent be fulfilled by Council and amended to include the building of another indoor sports court at the eastern end of the centre to accommodate netball as well as a canteen for the Youth Club, if the soccer fields can be reconfigured and there is no adverse impact on soccer. If Council paid for this with our ratepayers’ money it would be more economical and a win – win for all user groups. Our proposal is a good solution and accommodates the interests of all the diverse user groups”.

“The car park next to the centre is integral to all users of the centre and we are aware that most local residents do not want this off street parking taken away as is proposed by Mr Persson and netball courts built there. Under the existing John Fisher Park Plan of Management, 10 hard surfaced courts are allowed north of the lagoon adjacent to where the existing hard courts are already – why doesn’t Mr Persson just adhere the Plan that is in existence instead of taking away much needed parking facilities?”.

“We are happy to work collaboratively with netball and the community to achieve a good outcome however, we do not want one group to take over the centre and insist that the Management Committee that has been in operation since the centre was built by volunteers in 1966 and ensures fair and equitable usage of the centre is maintained” Mr De Luca concluded.

**Attached:** Photo of the Curl Curl Youth & Community Centre volunteers at the Centre’s Biggest Morning Tea last Saturday that raised \$1,160 for the Cancer Council, with Federal MP Bronwyn Bishop MP, and celebrity hosts SBS’s Maria Venuti and Nova FM’s Melissa Femia. L to right: Vincent De Luca OAM President, Maria Venuti AM, Jean Hay AM, Isa Wye MBE OAM, Bronwyn Bishop MP, Melissa Femia and Beverley Dew.

For more information please telephone  
Vincent De Luca on 0414 990 551