

I refer to the Daily's article (26.6.08) regarding Dick Persson's decision on John Fisher Park and Curl Curl Youth & Community Centre.

Mr Persson hasn't done any favours for either netball or the community with his decision. When Belrose was proposed as a netball venue, he indicated his willingness to spend \$19m to ensure netball courts there. For much less money he could have purchased private land in the factory areas or areas where there are large acreages. This would have facilitated netball's wishes for a proper 40 court facility.

Instead, to cover his lack of achievement, for a quick fix and media spin, Mr Persson has removed the Centre's off-street car park so as to build five netball courts on that area. Does a car park of five netball courts really give netball what they wanted? He proposes to spend a mere \$2.85m on the netball courts and knocking down of walls at the Centre to create one netball court. This is a lot less than the \$19m he talked of in the past and would have facilitated a proper netball facility.

Without any notice or advising its members prior to his announcement, one of whom has served on the Centre's Committee since its inception in 1966 and is in her mid 80s, Mr Persson disbanded the Committee of the Centre and has taken its more than \$100,000 raised by hard working volunteers. A committee, which has efficiently managed several major redevelopments in the past. So Mr Persson's comments that during development, there is no need for the committee is spurious and again misleading.

This issue has not been resolved in the public interest. All that is left are broken promises on Mr Persson's part, increased conflict and a mess that a new Council will have to clean up after the election. Mr Persson leaves Warringah in September with increased height limits at 18 storeys in the Dee Why Town Centre with a precedent for more, increased fees for Council services and the complete destruction of our volunteer services. What an achiever he is!

Vincent De Luca OAM