

Cr Vincent De Luca OAM

Warringah Councillor for "A" Ward

26 September 2008

Media Release

De Luca moves to stop Dee Why High Rise

Warringah Councillor, Vincent De Luca, has moved Warringah Council's first Notice of Motion under the new democratically elected Council, calling for the NSW Minister for Planning, Christina Kenneally, to reject the proposed height increases in the Dee Why Town Centre to 18 storeys. The Notice of Motion will be dealt with at the Council's first meeting on Monday night at 6pm.

Should the Minister not reject the draft proposal submitted by the former Council while under the Administrator, Cr De Luca has moved to obtain independent legal advice from Senior Counsel as to the possibility of Warringah Council pursuing an injunction in the Supreme Court and commencing legal proceedings to overturn any decision approving the height increases.

"There is overwhelming opposition to the proposed height increase by the community. As democratically elected and accountable Councillors we have a duty to seek that the proposed height increases are stopped. If the Minister approves the height increases it is incumbent upon us as elected representatives to seek legal advice and find out whether it is possible to have the Minister's decision overturned by the Courts" Cr De Luca stated.

"If the height increases to 18 storeys are approved this will set a precedent for Chatswood like high rise development across Warringah".

"Dee Why is already grid locked by traffic and parking chaos. This will be further exacerbated should the Minister approve the height increase and the decision results in more and more high rise in Warringah".

"In Warringah, we simply do not have the infrastructure to cope with high rise development. We have no train line, not enough buses and people can't even get across the Spit Bridge expeditiously. Unless the State Labor Government is prepared to inject billions of dollars into the northern beaches for essential infrastructure and services they should not push high rise on us".

"We are already more than meeting our quota for residential development and are well ahead of our targets dictated by the Residential Development Strategy".

"Dee Why needs cleaning up, however, high rise development is not the answer and will only exacerbate the problems. We need a Master Plan and full community consultation to formulate a proper strategy. Such as street cleaning, rubbish collection and graffiti removal, landscaping and beautification works, better lighting and community facilities. We also need to tackle the parking and traffic mess and explore innovative ways to alleviate the problem" Cr De Luca said.

"I also support residents' suggestions about exploring making the Strand either a one way street and extending the recreation and dining strip or closing off parts of the Strand to facilitate greater recreation. I think this part of Dee Why has become one of the northern beaches cultural centre's and we should do all possible to make it the best for residents to enjoy" Cr De Luca concluded.

For more information please contact Vincent De Luca – 0414 990 551