

Cr Vincent De Luca OAM

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Media Release

Warringah Council calls on developer to withdraw affordable housing application

Warringah Councillors have unanimously adopted a motion of Councillor Vincent De Luca calling on the developer who has proposed the 26 dwelling affordable housing development at Gladys Avenue and Epping Drive Frenchs Forest to withdraw the application.

The Council noted with concern that the proposed development is in a Bush Fire/buffer zone; that the access way from Frenchs Forest Road to the development is that narrow and steep that Council's Garbage Truck Contractors cannot travel down the access way; that the access way from Epping Drive is also narrow and steep; that the area was subjected to extensive bush fires in 1994 and has also had instances of flooding and due to the narrowness of the access ways Fire Trucks and other emergency service vehicles are prevented from easily accessing the area; and that a right of way to the development is in between a small block of Council land and in close proximity to a home.

“This motion was to support the residents and signal to the Minister for Planning’s Joint Regional Planning Panel that Council is against the proposal” Cr De Luca said.

“I have attended every public meeting of these residents and they are not against Affordable Housing they are just against a proposal that is on a site which is in a fire/buffer zone, is steep, has narrow access ways so much so that garbage trucks and emergency service vehicles cannot enter the area, is subject to flooding and will tower over adjoining residences.

“The residents are not opposed to the previous development consent passed under the Warringah LEP for 6 houses on the site. The significant increase to 26 unit dwellings is unsustainable.

“Affordable Housing is best put on Warringah Road as close as possible to the proposed Hospital and Health precinct and bus ways - not in the bush fire zone quite a distance away.

“The Council also called on the Minister for Planning, Tony Kelly to urgently amend the State’s Affordable Housing policy to prevent the policy allowing development to go in areas where there are public safety risks.

“I plead with the developers to listen to Council and the community’s concerns and withdraw the application” Cr De Luca concluded.

For more information contact Vincent De Luca on 0408 650 651