

MILLIONS OF DOLLARS EXPENDITURE BUT NO COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

At Wednesday night's Extraordinary Council Meeting, I was advised for the first time (as were some other councillors) that \$4m from the acquisition of three plots of rate-payers' land adjacent to the Frenchs Forrest Hospital site would go toward a PCYC at Dee Why (Fisher Road - on the old council car park where council management and Mayor Regan also want a multi-story carpark with a PCYC on top) which needs another \$4m from Council to build.

This decision by Council's management and Mayor Michael Regan was taken without any community consultation.

At public meetings over the Dee Why High Rise Towers over the years residents asked for youth & community services, childcare and a library to be built under section 94 developer contribution funds in the actual town centre – not at the back of Council so far away. The only calls for a PCYC has been in Pittwater because of the trouble with youth in Avalon and Newport. In Warringah we already have several youth and community centres that are in need of funding at Narraweena, Beacon Hill, Dee Why West-Cromer and North Curl Curl.

For years Council has had numerous requests for funding – particularly by the Manly Warringah Sea Eagles for Brookvale Oval, or from residents for better infrastructure such as footpaths, lesser rates and levies, more and better sports fields, aged and childcare services and the list goes on. At all times funding requests were rejected because Council supposedly could not afford it.

I find it very odd with the speed this matter is now being rammed through. I am not against PCYC's, my family and I have been involved with youth welfare for decades. However, I am concerned that the community has not had a say on where any money raised from the acquisition should be allocated, whether it is appropriate to have a PCYC at the location proposed despite previous community meetings requesting such facilities be located in the Town Centre and other demands for Council funds to be spent on other infrastructure and services.

Accordingly, I have supported a Notice of Rescission that calls for Council to consult with the community to determine where any funds raised from the acquisition be expended.

Cr Vincent De Luca OAM
Warringah Councillor