

PCU55873

c/o Mullumbimby Hospital
Azalea St
Mullumbimby, 2482

15 Sep. 14

Development Assessment Systems and Approvals
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Director – Industry, Key Sites and Social Projects
Reference: Exhibition of State Significant Development Application
Byron Shire Central Hospital
Application No: SSD 6573

From my position as Chairperson, Mullumbimby & District Hospital, I wish to express a concern, with regards to one aspect of the proposed Development Application. There are no provisions in the development application for surgical services.

"Health Infrastructure is conducting a market sounding exercise to understand the level of interest from the private sector in providing day surgery for both public and private patients. At this stage we are making every effort to market the private day surgery component to give this as much chance as possible of success." written to the Byron Shire Central Hospital Steering Committee from Mr Chris Crawford, Chief Executive, N NSW LHD 8 August, 2014

The Medical Staff Council concurs with the Byron Shire Health Services Community Action Group that if Day Surgery should be included in the current Development Application as it would be far more conducive to a ***"market sounding exercise"***. However, I acknowledge that if there is not private sector interest at this stage and surgical services are not included in the current construction, it would still be an advantage in having planning approval in place for the future.

Our medical Staff Council, together with the community, have agreed to and supported the concept and, now the development, of the Byron Shire Central Hospital. What has driven this agreement to relax the usual parochial attitudes of rural communities and medical staff councils is that we have seen the services provided by our local hospital be eroded over the last two decades. We have lost several clinical services including surgical services.

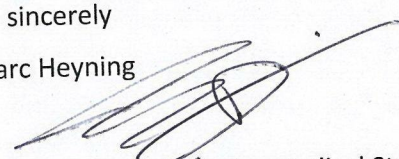
The promise of regaining and possibly expanding services has been the enticement for the medical staff and the community to support the new centralised hospital. However, the development application as it now stands DOES NOT include even the possibility of surgical services.

As the Chairperson for the Mullumbimby Hospital, losing a further existing service, the Byron Hospital Surgical facility as part of the amalgamation without even potentially planning for same is NOT sending the correct message to the community, the patients or the medical staff councils or even to potential private sector investors. We have lost enough services.

We support the amalgamation on the basis of regaining and extending services available for our communities and our patients. Please consider adding in your Development Application surgical services.

Yours sincerely

Dr Marc Heyning


Chairperson, Mullumbimby Medical Staff Council

