



PCU075259



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To: Planning Services Dept of Planning and Environment.
GPO Box39
Sydney, NSW. 2001.

From: Mr. Adam Robb.
7/41 Old Coast Road.
Nambucca Heads. NSW. 2448. (Tel: 0457 883379).

Subject: **New Macksville Hospital.**
Old Coast Road (lots 2 and 3 DP258324).

Applicant: Health Administration on behalf of Health Administration Corporation.

Council Area: Nambucca Valley Shire

Consent Authority: Minister for Planning

Objection: **To the placement of this vital new hospital facility at Macksville for the following reasons;**

Date: **19th July 2018.**

1 Why 2 Hospitals at Macksville:

Macksville already has a hospital that only needs a few simple upgrades to make it a very viable medical facility. Upgrading and keeping this present hospital would allow people and patients south of the Nambucca River to access professional medical services. This would be vital at those times that storms, flood waters or highway accidents could cause difficulty in reaching medical assistance. It is well known that persons suffering illness, stroke, heart failure or road accident trauma have a better chance of survival if treated as soon as is possible when such incidents occur.

2 No Advantage for a 2nd Macksville Hospital:

There would be no advantage in placing a second hospital at Macksville. Giving Macksville two (2) hospitals would leave all other areas of the Nambucca Valley shire without more convenient and centralised medical access that should be close by for rapid emergency treatment.

One need only look to recent police reports of road accident victims and ambulance call out rates for in home traumas and traffic accidents to deduce that this new hospital should be constructed at a more central location. Centralising this hospital to Nambucca Heads (proper) within the shire would bring more convenience in regard to small growing towns in regard to emergency treatment.

3 Population Spread and Towns:

Latest official census figures, (2016), show that there are 19,625 persons claiming residence in the Nambucca Valley Shire. Council signage shows that Nambucca Heads (proper) has a population of over 10,000 residents. Macksville, according to council, has a population of just 7,000 persons. The rest of the population, 2,625 persons, is probably spread over the townships of Valla and Bowraville Scott's Head, Stuarts point and Grassy Head.

4 Better More Central Location:

Obviously building the new hospital at Nambucca Heads (proper) would be far more central and convenient to and for the populations of Valla, Bowraville, Scott's Head, Stuarts Point, Grassy Head and Macksville North as well as putting this hospital in easy range of the Urunga Township.

5 Current Chosen Location problematic:

The chosen location of Macksville North for the new hospital is problematic as it is near to the Nambucca River.

Anecdotal evidence from residents that lived in the area nearby to the new hospital site for many years could place this facility in danger of being cut off or even, less likely, flooded. One person whom I spoke with said that the nearby area did flood to 2 meters and possibly 3 meters on three occasions during the six years that he lived there.

It would be highly embarrassing to open a new hospital, and then, within a short space of time have this hospital either flooded or cut off by impassable roads. The only way to avoid these (above) problems would be to build flood mitigation devices which could cost more than the hospital.

6 Service and Convenience, Shorter Travel Times for More People/Towns:

Obviously situating the new hospital in a more central location, Nambucca Heads (proper), has the advantage of better access to medical services on both sides of the Nambucca River and better rapid access for the towns of Valla, Bellbowrie and Macksville North, Scott's Head, Stuarts Point and Grassy Head as well as possibly even Urunga Township.

There is plenty of land at Nambucca Heads that could be released or resumed to build this hospital. Land could be rezoned, resumed and cleared to make viable now and into the future, this proposed hospital. Changing the positioning of this hospital to a new site at Nambucca Heads would give the opportunity to place it as, unthreatened by inundation or isolation because of a riverside location, and make it a high and dry, always accessible, expandable and a smart decision for many more local communities.

Supplementary:

Please note that there are many doubts, held by many people, within the shire, as to whether the present Nambucca Shire Council is up to the task of being completely unbiased and transparent with regard to funding of proposed projects throughout the entire municipality.

There are also doubts as to council's provision of information that is vital and needed in regard to some of the proposed large, for Nambucca Heads, housing projects that have been before council for many years. One of these projects, **a development of 390 individual blocks**, has already had many written inquires put before council. Council has not answered any of these inquiries to the satisfaction of nearby residents. Residents are concerned that these blocks will contain temporary accommodations of dubious construction and quality. Nambucca Heads (proper) already hosts four (4) large and unsightly caravan parks and holiday parks which occupy prime locations.

Local residents at Nambucca Heads (proper) have many doubts about how infrastructure such as medical facilities and roads are financed, how rates are levied and how council contracts for such items are let and funded. There are also doubts as to how large amounts of State and Federal funds are dispersed within the community.

There are hopes that a forensic audit, of Nambucca Valley Shire Council, can be compelled by the appropriate official State and Federal bodies in order alleviate any doubts as to council's processes and procedures and transparency for large public projects and developments within the shire`.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Adam Robb.



Melinda Pavey MP
MEMBER FOR OXLEY ELECTORATE

RECEIVED A.M. 19-7-18

Mr Adam Robb
7/41 Old Coast Road
NAMBUCCA HEADS NSW 2448

4 July 2018

Dear Mr Robb,

Thank you for your letter regarding the site of the new Macksville Hospital.

Health Infrastructure NSW is the NSW Government agency which has responsibility for identification of sites for new hospitals and major health facilities and it works collaboratively with other State Government agencies and Local Governments – such as in this case Nambucca Shire Council – to determine locations for these major projects.

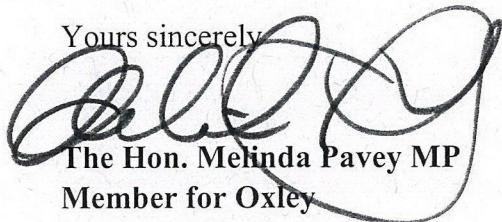
I can confirm that the site was thoroughly investigated and assessed for a wide range of requirements per established processes and protocols. The key factors that are taken into account include the very important ones you nominate, being: amenity and accessibility, flood susceptibility and centrality to the whole population of the Nambucca Valley – which includes the upper reaches of Taylors Arm and the Nambucca River, through Bowraville and Macksville, to Nambucca Heads, and the areas north and south - such as Eungai and Valla. The final site has taken account of, and been deemed suitable for, all these factors.

An added major advantage of the new site - I am sure you will agree - is its proximity to the new, upgraded Pacific Highway which the NSW and Australian Governments have invested in for our mid north coast community; this will enable faster and safer transport of patients to and from the hospital from all parts of the Nambucca, and visitor access is also improved. In this regard, the site has a large area purposefully set aside for free parking.

Regarding your observations of Council's work tendering systems, I will keep these in mind for when I next meet with Council staff.

Thank you again for bringing your views and comments to my attention.

Yours sincerely



The Hon. Melinda Pavey MP
Member for Oxley

Our Ref: OX3320

