

Anthony Petrolo  
Brookvale, 2100

The Hon. Brad Hazzard MLA.  
Shop 3, 637-641 Pittwater Road,  
DEE WHY NSW 2099

27 November 2013

Dear the Honourable Brad Hazzard,

**Re: SSI 5982 Northern Beaches Hospital**

I am opposed to the construction of the proposed Northern Beaches Hospital in Frenchs Forest, in particular on the current proposal site, containing an Endangered Ecological Community (ECC) (either Duffys Forest or another category still yet to be discovered), as classified under NSW Legislation. I simply do not understand why more funding cannot go into upgrading and maintaining Manly and Mona Vale Hospitals, considering that they (and other public hospitals across NSW) are struggling to operate due to a lack of funding. In conjunction with this, one needs to remember the Community Health Centres (CHCs) located throughout the Northern Beaches, such as Queenscliff, Frenchs Forest and Mona Vale CHCs.

I have concerns about those who claim 'biobanking' to be the solution. By purchasing another parcel of bushland elsewhere (or revegetating another site) and believing this to be an acceptable alternative to an EEC is short-sighted and superficial. This assumes that the bushland is homogenous and all of equal ecological significance, when this is obviously not the case. To put this into perspective, it is like saying 'food is just food' when comparing a mass-produced meal from a fast-food chain and that of a five-star restaurant.

The proposed offset is grossly inadequate. The offset site contains no Duffys Forest EEC (contrary to claims in the Environmental Impact Statement), nor any other endangered ecological community; it contains no Powerful Owl habitat (although it does contain habitat for two other threatened species); and it falls well short of the offsetting requirements calculated using the BioBanking Assessment Methodology credit calculator, which is the standard method in NSW for objectively assessing biodiversity impacts and offsetting requirements.

Artificial roads are already clogged, there is insufficient public transport servicing the immediate vicinity of the proposed site (i.e. Warringah Road, Wakehurst Parkway), an increasing human population throughout the Northern Beaches (and the rest of NSW) and numerous other concerns associated with this proposal that need to be readily addressed with sufficient measures.

Ultimately, there needs to be a greater emphasis placed on disease prevention than disease cure (though both are critical) and utilising CHCs and other health care services more than relying heavily in hospitals.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Petrolo