



Hon Secretary,
Riverside Tennis Club Inc
PO Box 442,
Mullumbimby. 2482

09.09.2014

Ms Megan Fu
Contact Officer
Dept of Planning and Equipment NSW Govt
GPO Box 39
Sydney. 2001

Dear Ms Fu,

RE: Byron Shire Central Hospital Application No SSD 65731

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on plans for the above, proposed hospital.

The members of the Riverside Tennis Club Inc, being residents of Byron Shire, make the following comments:

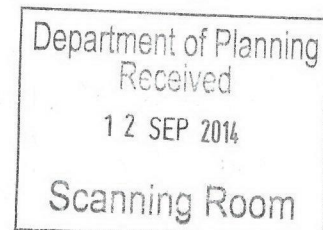
After some three decades of hard work and continued persistence by a group of concerned local residents, it is most heartening to see that plans for a new hospital, are now 'on the table'

However, nowhere in the plans--viewed at the Byron Shire Council Chambers--could we see any provision for Surgical Services. This is of major concern to us.

It beggars belief that the 'new \$80 million Byron Central Hospital' as reported in the Byron Shire ECHO, 26/08/14, could be a hospital without an operating theatre, to provide, at least, Day/Emergency Surgery. Such plans would not be acceptable for a new city hospital. Why should they be acceptable to the people of Byron Shire, or anywhere else in the State? Is this an oversight, or an early cost cutting exercise?

Byron Shire is populated by people of all ages, and supports a major tourist industry. Promises were made during the planning process that the new hospital would provide services superior to the services operating currently, for all concerned. Without the inclusion of Surgical Services, this will not be the case. Residents and tourists alike will continue to be transported from the Shire to hospitals at Tweed Heads and to Lismore, for surgery. Meanwhile, it is well documented that a delay in surgical intervention can adversely affect the prognosis for the person concerned. This omission needs to be addressed immediately, prior to any building taking place.

If the plans in their current form are indeed correct, that is, without facility for surgical services, it is hard to believe that the NSW Minister of Health Jillian Skinner is aware of the fact. It is even more surprising that our local Member, Don Page, would give his support to the plans.



We trust that the omission of Surgical Services will be rectified before any foundations are commenced, and we look forward to your assurance in reply.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Grayson,
Hon Secretary
Riverside Tennis Club Inc

Cc The Hon Jillian Skinner, Minister for Health

The Hon Don Page, Member for Ballina

Mr C. Crawford, CEO, Northern NSW Local Health Network