

8 Yarralumla Ave  
St Ives Chase  
NSW 2075

21 November 2011

Department of Planning Infrastructure

**MP 10\_0150 Graythwaite Project Application**

I count myself fortunate to have had more than a passing acquaintance with Graythwaite, having spent more than 27 years of my life next door, firstly as a boy at Shore School in the 1950's and subsequently as a member of the staff of the School.

During my time as a boy at Shore I cannot recall ever having been into Graythwaite, but remember well the soldiers there in the hospital. Some of them came to Shore to see the Ceremonial Parades and other school events and boys from the school used to visit the men in the hospital.

When I became a staff member at Shore I had the opportunity to visit Graythwaite a number of times – the hospital building, the old mansion, and the Tom O'Neill Day Care Centre and much admired the Coach House which I regard as a most gracious building. It has saddened me to see the deterioration that has taken place in recent years, not helped by the delays since Shore acquired the property, so it is good to see this proposal for restoration and future development under consideration by the Department of Planning Infrastructure.

In my view this plan is a sensible balance between new development and restoration and I cannot see how the historic buildings of Graythwaite could be restored without Shore being able to make use of the site for school activities.

I was intimately involved with the Shore Preparatory School redevelopment next door to Graythwaite. This was an excellent example of Shore working together with the local community to produce a development/refurbishment which was an enhancement for both Graythwaite and the adjacent residential area. I am sure that the school will work tirelessly to procure an equally acceptable and sympathetic result in the case of the Graythwaite restoration and development of new educational buildings.

I wholeheartedly support the proposal.

Yours faithfully

(Signed)

Neil Cowdery