

NSW Department of Planning
PO Box 5475
Wollongong NSW 2520

Shoalhaven Committee for the Melanoma Foundation
PO Box 264
Nowra NSW 2541

26th April 2011

**Re: Public Exhibition of the Planning Proposal to facilitate the development of the
Shoalhaven Cancer Care Centre, part Lot 7300 DP 1132679, Scenic Drive Nowra**

Dear Sir/ Madam,

The Shoalhaven Melanoma Committee has been raising funds for Melanoma Research for the past 22 years. The Committee was formed as a result of local people being diagnosed and then treated for melanomas and over the years a number of our members have suffered similarly. As a result of fund raising activities and the direct contact we have with Melanoma research as well as the treatment of local people with melanomas we have a very direct knowledge of the impact this disease has on the patient and their family and friends.

For many years local sufferers of various cancers have needed to travel to distant places to receive the necessary treatment. In some cases local people with cancer have not been able to undertake such travel and have suffered accordingly.

Our Committee applauds the action taken by both the Federal and State Governments in providing the necessary funding to build a quality cancer treatment centre in Nowra. We also recognize the effort the community has put into this project through the raising of over \$1.4 million as its contribution towards the cancer care centre and patient and carers accommodation.

We believe this cancer care centre will alleviate the need for many people within our community that contract cancer to travel far afield for essential treatment, particularly radio therapy. Also this centre will offer local treatment for cancer sufferers who may previously have been unable to travel, for one reason or another, to these more remote treatment centres.

It seems to our Committee that it is a small price to pay to use a part of the park adjacent to the local public hospital for the centre. In the final analysis the facility will dramatically improve the cancer treating services available locally and we believe that this should take primacy over arguments for its exclusion based on the need to protect all of the park lands.

Our Committee therefore wholeheartedly supports rezoning the part of Nowra Park that is intended for the development of the cancer care centre.

Yours sincerely,

Lois Bruce

President, Shoalhaven Committee for the Melanoma Foundation