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The Hon. Frank Sartor, MP  
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1 Farrer Place  
Sydney 2000

7 November 2007

Email: [office@sartor.minister.nsw.gov.au](mailto:office@sartor.minister.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Sir

Huskisson Woollamia Community Voice is committed to working with Shoalhaven City Council to try to make the views of our community heard. However, we believe that Shoalhaven City Council are seriously eroding our democratic rights as citizens and rate-payers.

In addition to refusing to hear our views on development at residents briefings, as outlined in the attached copy of a letter to SCC dated 6 November 2007, Council are also restricting our access to information by conducting business in confidential sessions.

At the meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> October, in confidential session, Council discussed the sale of a public car park in Huskisson comprising of 38-40 Owen St and 3 Morton St. The future of this land is of great interest to the local community. A representation to Council was made by a member of the public before they went into confidential session, arguing that the debate should remain public, but this was not accepted by Council.

Council had previously received information from the Department of Local Government recommending that Council should re-classify the land as operational land through an LEP amendment. Council initially resolved to carry out the LEP amendment, then in confidential session on 30 October, resolved to continue negotiations for the sale of the car park without reclassification through an LEP amendment.

There can be no doubt that Councillors have chosen to make this decision in a closed session knowing full well that the community will not support the decision and also realising that the only recourse available to the community is via a challenge in the Land and Environment court.

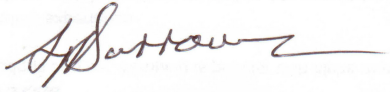
On the basis that the above observation is correct it can only be seen as an outrageously cynical basis for such a decision. In effect to circumvent opportunity for the community to provide comment on the change of title of this land and subsequent sale.

The community would like to know why Council changed its mind and decided to act against the recommendation of DLG, and whether there are any risks to Council, and ultimately to ratepayers.

We are not opposed to development but are very concerned that the tourism industry in our area will be adversely affected by over-development. We believe that we are in a unique position to have properly planned sustainable development in this beautiful area and would welcome your advice on how this could be achieved.

We seek your intervention to cause Councillors to be open and responsive to community concerns. Of particular note is the continued lack of any research to support and guide changes necessary for the future of the Bay & Basin area in particular and the Shoalhaven in general.

Sincerely



Alan J Burrows  
Co Chair

Copy to

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