

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 Hon Brad Hazzard MP Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

Attachments

1. Copy of letter from Hon Brad Hazzard MP
2. Copy of Council's letter

(Comment: The Director Planning and Environment will be presenting a report on this issue to the next meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee.)

Responding to Council's letter reiterating its objection to the Camden Gas Extraction (Stage 3) Project Application and seeking the Governments support for the imposition of a moratorium on all further coal seam gas mining until such time as conclusive evidence emerges that this practice does not damage groundwater sources.

Officer's Recommendation

That the letter be received and the information be noted.

Council Meeting 13 March 2012 (Lake/Rule)

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

Council Resolution Minute Number 23

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

ATTACHMENT 1



The Hon Brad Hazzard MP

Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW

Mr Paul Tosi
General Manager
Campbelltown City Council
PO Box 57
CAMPBELLTOWN NSW 2560

12/01367

FEB10'12 08:22:13 RCUD

Paul

Dear Mr ~~Tosi~~,

I refer to your letter reiterating the Council's objection to the Camden Gas Extraction (Stage 3) Project Application and seeking the Government's support for the imposition of a moratorium on all further coal seam gas mining until such time as conclusive evidence emerges this practice does not damage groundwater sources.

I note Council's continuing opposition to the proposed northern expansion of the Camden Gas Project (Stage 3) and can assure you Council's submission is being given consideration. I am advised there have been a number of discussions between senior officers of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and senior Council officers since 2010 regarding this matter. I am also advised AGL has not yet submitted its Response to Submissions for the project. Once received, it will be made publicly available on the Department's website. The Camden Gas (Stage 3) Project will ultimately be determined by the independent PAC.

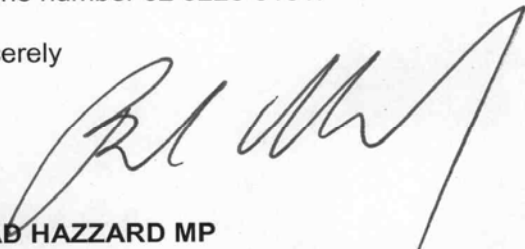
I note your concerns regarding coal seam gas exploration and extraction and while the Government does not propose to impose a moratorium on coal seam gas mining, it has introduced a broad suite of initiatives to better plan for and regulate this activity. These initiatives include a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing for coal seam gas drilling which was recently extended until April 2012. Additionally, new arrangements have been put in place around the issuing of exploration licences for coal, coal seam gas and petroleum. These arrangements now require public consultation before exploration licences are issued.

The Government has also committed to banning the use of BTEX chemicals in fracking fluids, improved fracking standards and the banning of evaporation ponds. An Aquifer Interference Policy is also currently being developed which will require coal mining and coal seam gas activities to obtain approval where there is the potential for aquifer interference.

The Government is seeking to ensure the Coal Seam Gas industry occurs within a sound policy environment and I thank Council for its contribution to the debate.

Should you have any further enquiries about this matter, I have arranged for Mr Richard Pearson, Deputy-Director General, Development Assessment and Systems Performance of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure, to assist. Mr Pearson can be contacted on telephone number 02 9228 6181.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brad Hazzard', written in a cursive style.

HON BRAD HAZZARD MP
Minister

08 FEB 2012

ATTACHMENT 2



14 December 2011

The Hon. Brad Hazzard
Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
Governor Macquarie Tower
Level 33, 1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister

Coal Seam Gas Extraction – Camden Gas Project (Stage 3)

You may be aware that Council previously lodged an objection and detailed submission concerning the Camden Gas Extraction (Stage 3) Project Application made under Part 3A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1999*.

Council has also made a detailed submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Coal Seam Gas Extraction outlining a range of objections and concerns associated with coal seam gas extraction activities.

The essence of Council's objections relate to the potential significant environmental impacts of coal seam gas extraction, particularly the uncertainty and implications associated with groundwater resource interference.

Council is seriously concerned that coal seam gas extraction, depending upon the location and method of extraction, has the potential to de-water aquifers and contaminate groundwater, and therefore give rise to possible negative impacts on water resources and downstream users of these resources. Potential salinity risks are also of concern, particularly for watercourses in the vicinity of coal seam gas extraction activities. Hydrological fracturing ('fracking') is seen by Council as a distinct risk to the environment, notwithstanding the extent and nature of chemicals utilised as part of the process.

These concerns are amplified when applications for coal seam gas extraction are made with insufficient evidence relating to the groundwater resources – their location, extent, composition, patterns of behaviour (movement throughout the aquifer) and the like. This was a fundamental consideration in Council's objection to the Camden Stage 3 Project Application, and was also noted in the submission by the New South Wales Office of Water.

Council is not satisfied that the 'science' of the potential impacts of coal seam gas extraction on natural resources such as groundwater are understood well enough to properly inform major decisions relating to applications for coal seam gas extraction. Council would therefore urge the NSW Government to commit to a precautionary approach as far as future project determinations for coal seam gas extraction related applications are concerned.

Clearly, there is significant scientific doubt about the safety of coal seam gas extraction activities. There is also wide community concern about the potential for these extraction activities to impact on natural resources, the natural environment and land users such as farmers and residents (who draw their water supply from naturally occurring water catchment sources).

Therefore, I must advise you that Council unanimously resolved at its meeting on 18 October 2011, that the NSW Government must act to impose a moratorium on all further coal seam gas mining until such time as conclusive evidence emerges that this practice does not damage groundwater sources.

Council respectfully seeks your Government's support for the imposition of such a moratorium in the best interests of the community of the City of Campbelltown and the environment.

Council looks forward to receiving your advice concerning this most important issue.

Should you wish to discuss this matter further I can be contacted on (02) 4645 4659.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Tosi', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Tosi
General Manager

6.2 Office of the Hon Brad Hazzard MP Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

Attachments

1. Copy of letter from Office of Hon Brad Hazzard
2. Copy of Council's letter

Responding to Council's letter concerning the public notification of transitional housing.

Officer's Recommendation

That the letter be received and the information be noted.

Council Meeting 13 March 2012 (Rule/Thomas)

1. That the letter be received and the information be noted.
2. That Council write to the Affordable Housing Task Force and the supporting Council Reference Groups expressing its concern regarding this issue.

Council Resolution Minute Number 24

That the Recommendation be adopted.

ATTACHMENT 1



Office of the Hon. Brad Hazzard MP
Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
Minister Assisting the Premier on Infrastructure NSW

Mr Michael Sewell
Acting General Manager
Campbelltown City Council
PO Box 57
Campbelltown NSW 2560

12/02081

FEB28'12 08:08:14 RCVD

Dear Mr Sewell

I refer to your letter to the Hon Brad Hazzard MP, Minister for Planning and Infrastructure, concerning the public notification of transitional housing. The Minister has asked me to reply on his behalf.

Under State Environmental Planning Policy (Affordable Rental Housing) 2009 (AHSEPP), group homes (transitional and permanent group homes) may be constructed by a public authority without development consent providing the home is less than 10 bedrooms in size. As the AHSEPP does not require these group home developments to be approved by a consent authority, there is no requirement for them to be notified to adjoining neighbours. However, some public authorities may have their own neighbour notification policies for similar developments.

The Minister has established an Affordable Housing Taskforce and a supporting Council Reference Group to assist the Government in the review of the AHSEPP. The Affordable Housing Taskforce is considering the AHSEPP provisions on group homes as part of its review of the AHSEPP and I will ensure the issues raised in your correspondence are brought to their attention.

Should you have any further enquiries about this matter, the Minister has arranged for Ms Yolande Stone, Director, Policy, Planning Systems and Reform of the Department of Planning and Infrastructure, to assist you. She can be contacted on telephone number (02) 9228 6301.

Yours sincerely

Craig Baumann MP
Parliamentary Secretary 26.2.12

ATTACHMENT 2



17 January 2012

The Honourable Brad Hazzard
Minister for Planning and Infrastructure
Level 33 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister,

Public Notification of Transitional Housing

At a recent meeting of the full Council it was resolved that a letter be sent to you requesting you to consider the introduction of measures requiring that operators of transitional homes undertake adequate notification and community consultation prior to the operation commencing.

This issue is being raised as a result of a number of enquiries and complaints recently received by Council in relation to a proposal for an existing dwelling, located within the Campbelltown Local Government Area, to be used for the purpose of a transitional home. Residents and home owners in proximity to the proposed transitional home were alarmed to find as a result of their enquiries, that transitional homes could be commenced within an established residential neighbourhood without the need to obtain Council's development consent and without any notification or communication with owners/occupiers in the local neighbourhood.

Furthermore, local residents expressed strong concerns that the establishment of transitional homes could potentially lead to a range of negative amenity issues for owners/occupiers of nearby properties. Concern was also raised with regard to the effect a transitional home may have on the dollar value of properties in the vicinity of the transitional home.

Notwithstanding the above, Council is acutely aware of the important and critical role that transitional homes play in ensuring the provision of safe and adequate housing for those in need. However, it is also aware of the importance and benefits of adequate communication and notification opportunities and in particular, informing those who may have an interest or live in the immediate vicinity of the site of a transitional home proposal.

A process that required such community involvement would enable the community to raise concerns with the housing provider (perceived or otherwise); give the housing provider an opportunity to introduce themselves to the community and explain the proposal and the various and ongoing management strategies; and would reduce/limit the amount of misinformation that may be propagated as a result of the community not being fully informed of the details of the proposal.

Council understands that this is a complex issue and appreciates your consideration of its request. If you require any more information or wish discuss the contents of this letter further please contact Mr Jeff Lawrence – Director Planning and Environment on ph no: 4645 4575.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'M. Sewell', written in dark ink.

Michael Sewell
Acting General Manager

6.3 Office of the Hon Duncan Gay MLC Minister for Roads and Ports

Attachments

1. Copy of letter from Office of Hon Duncan Gay MLC
2. Copy of Council's letter

Acknowledging receipt of Council's letter regarding the twin culvert on Biriwiri Creek under the Hume Highway and advising that the issues raised are currently receiving attention.

Officer's Recommendation

That the letter be received and the information be noted.

Council Meeting 13 March 2012 (Hawker/Greiss)

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

Council Resolution Minute Number 25

That the Officer's Recommendation be adopted.

ATTACHMENT 1



Office of the Hon. Duncan Gay MLC
Deputy Leader of Government in the Legislative Council
Minister for Roads and Ports

M12/1243

Mr Paul Tosi
General Manager
Campbelltown City Council
PO Box 57
CAMPBELLTOWN NSW 2560

MAR01'12 08:08:29 RCVD

Dear Mr Tosi

The Minister for Roads and Ports, the Hon Duncan Gay MLC, has requested that I acknowledge receipt of your letter regarding the twin culvert on Biriwiri Creek under the Hume Highway.

The matters raised by you have been noted and are presently receiving attention.

A further reply will be forwarded to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Said".

Michael Said
Senior Ministerial Liaison Officer

29 FEB 2012

ATTACHMENT 2



23 February 2012

The Hon Duncan Gay MLC
Deputy Leader of Government in the Legislative Council
Minister for Roads and Ports
Level 35, Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister

Proposed Rehabilitation Works - Twin Culvert (on Biriwiri Creek) Under the Hume Highway 440m South of Badgally Road, Campbelltown

Further to your letter of June 2011 you advise Council that the Roads and Maritime Services (previously RTA) were undertaking a hydrologist study of Biriwiri Creek under the Hume Highway and Council would be advised of the outcome.

Council was surprised to find out that the works under the Hume Highway had been undertaken prior to the completion of this study.

Recent enquiries reveal that a third consultant has been engaged to undertake a further study to analyse the impacts on upstream properties of these works.

Council requests that a copy of both flood studies and the hydrologists report be provided to assess the impacts on upstream properties. Council also requests advice on the impact on properties downstream of the culvert works.

If you require any further information please contact Director City Works, John Hely on 4645 4636.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Tosi", written over a white background.

Paul Tosi
General Manager