

Catherine Hill Bay Progress Association Newsletter

Catherine Hill Bay Progress Association and Dune Care Inc

May 2011

www.catherinehillbay.org.au

For Association members, Friends of Catherine Hill Bay, residents and supporters everywhere

WHAT IS THE FUTURE FOR CATHERINE HILL BAY?

The new Premier Barry O'Farrell has said that all developments currently affected by Part 3A will be either sent to a Planning Assessment Commission for determination, sent back to the local Council, or will be deemed to have lapsed. As yet we do not know into which group Catherine Hill Bay will be placed.

Our Lake Macquarie City Council, sees Catherine Hill Bay as a tourist destination and believes that it should "remain a unique hideaway village on the ocean".

A recent report on the assessment of housing growth targets in Lake Macquarie by the Lake Macquarie City Council found that the Rose group's planned 554 lots at Catherine Hill Bay were not needed. The Council maintains that housing growth should continue to be directed towards growth centres that have existing infrastructure and services such as Glendale-Cardiff, Charlestown and Morisset.

The Lake Macquarie City Council had put this position when the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy was in draft form and the Regional office of the Department of Planning agreed.

It was indeed a surprise when the Final Lower Hunter Regional Strategy was released in 2006 and it emerged that a 'deal' had been entered into with the Minister for Planning to allow the large developers Rose group and Coal & Allied to have 900 new residential dwellings at Catherine Hill Bay. The Land and Environment Court overturned the approval given by the then Minister for Planning, Frank Sartor, for the Rose group development of 600 houses and yet the developers still seem to think they have a **right** to hold onto this **deal** which allows them such an overwhelming number of new residential dwellings.

The Association has always challenged the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy on the grounds that it lacks transparency and community consultation. We have also maintained that any new residential development should be appropriate and sympathetic to the State Heritage Listed township.

Immediately following the recent election, representatives of the Association requested meetings with the new Minister for Planning, Brad Hazzard, the new Minister for Heritage, Robyn Parker, the Minister for the Hunter, Michael Gallacher and our new local member Garry Edwards. We also are seeking to meet with the new opposition spokesperson for Planning and Infrastructure, Linda Burney.

We hope to meet with our new Government Ministers and opposition spokesperson in the coming weeks to restate our Core Position and concerns. We will keep you informed of the outcome of our discussions.