

Catherine Hill Bay Statement

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The NSW State Government rezoned 80ha of land at Catherine Hill Bay, owned by the Rose Group, from an environmental zone to a residential zone (R2). This rezoning essentially allowed the land to be developed for urban purposes. On the same day, the Minister for Planning approved a Concept Plan for the subdivision and development of this 80ha area to create 600 new dwellings.

31 August 2009

The NSW Land and Environment Court ruled that the approval of the Concept Plan was void and of no effect, as the existence of an MOU between the Rose Group and several State Government Ministers meant the Minister for Planning's decision was affected by a bias this agreement had created.

Today, 28 July 2010

The NSW State Government placed a draft State Environmental Planning Policy on exhibition for public comment that would see this same 80ha of land "rezoned" from Residential R2 to Residential R2 – that is, exactly the same zone, permitting the same residential uses and conceivably the same 600 dwellings previously approved in the Concept Plan. No new planning or ecological studies appeared to have been prepared or considered in preparation of this "rezoning".

At the same time, the Department of Planning has announced that the current Minister for Planning and the Rose Group have signed a Deed of Termination to extinguish any obligations said to have arisen under the MOU.

The draft State Environmental Planning Policy announced today appears to introduce little or no change to the current planning situation. The NSW State Government has not addressed the underlying issues that have been regularly raised by Council and the community, that is, studies have not been prepared that prove that development of this land can be accommodated without significant social and environmental impacts on the area.