

Office of the Mayor



26 October 2018

The Honourable Gladys Berejiklian, MP
NSW Premier
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Premier Berejiklian

The Tweed community is extremely grateful for the announcement by the Berejiklian Government of funding for expanded hospital services in the Tweed Shire.

As you may be aware, there is considerable and ongoing angst from many members of the community and Tweed Council about the selection of the site on the State Significant Farmlands.

You may not be aware of the history, but there has been eight attempts over the years to rezone these farmlands for development, all fiercely and successfully resisted by the community.

Council has written to Minister Hazzard a number of times to express our concerns about both the site election, the original lack of any consultation, the subsequent lack of transparency of the processes; and most recently now with concerns about the Government's intentions for Tweed Heads and Kingscliff planning.

Council resolved to write to you to seek your assistance in these matters.

This is the largest and most significant public development for our Shire and has enormous implications for not just this patch of State Significant Farmlands, but for the whole viability of this State Significant Farmlands area which is already undersize, the planning of our coastal areas which is contrary to the hospital requirements, and for the economic future of the hospital as one of the largest employers in this regional capital city of Tweed Heads.

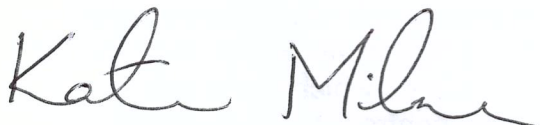
As a result, Council has resolved the following:

The Mayor:

- a) Writes to Minister Hazzard requesting in the most respectful terms that he reconsider his response in light of the expectation the local community has for comprehensive transparency and control of local planning powers, and the continued high level of angst caused by the lack of transparency and top down governance, and
- b) Seeks further advice from Minister Hazzard to clarify what exactly is intended in his letter in regard to his reference to “consider planning scenarios around the hospital campus”, and in particular what areas he is referring to, noting extreme concern if this was to include any further State Significant Farmland.
- c) Writes to the NSW Planning Minister to request they involve the community in a comprehensive engagement process on the Tweed City Action Plan in a manner conducive to facilitating a community led rather than government led process, and advises the Minister that Council would object vehemently to Kingscliff being nominated as a regional city.
- d) Writes to the NSW Premier to bring these matters to her attention and request her assistance to instil community faith back in this process.

I hope that you can consider the significance of these matters to the Tweed Shire community and the ongoing angst that has been expressed by our residents, particularly of the farming community.

Warm regards



Cr Katie Milne
Mayor of Tweed Shire