



WARRINGAH GOLF CLUB LIMITED

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Dear Members

As you will no doubt have seen from the front page of the Manly Daily today and the follow up story, we are now back in for a fight for our Course.

Over the past couple of weeks we have heard whispers of some sort activity going on behind the scenes by other bodies in relation to the DPPM. At the same time we had been pressing Council for an update on when the tender would be released with no real response. Paul Benbow had sought meetings with Dick Persson & Mark Ferguson to discuss the matter again with no response. Now we know why!

Yesterday morning I received a telephone call from the Manly Daily outlining the details of an article that would be running today which confirmed that the Administrator was reviewing the DPPM with a view to taking back part or all of our Course. This is despite Council having recently ratified the DPPM after 3 years of consultation with the community prior to them being disbanded following the amalgamation of the 3 Peninsula Councils.

You will have read my responses as quoted in the Daily but to reiterate my comments in full some of which were not published were:

- After 3 years of community consultation, including a regional golf study, where it was found that there should be an 18 hole golf course the final DPPM was recently approved by Council. We therefore cannot understand how an Administrator on a temporary contract can come in and arbitrarily override that decision.
- During the DPPM process all sporting bodies, including the Sporting Union, had the chance to submit their thoughts on the uses for the precinct. They were then considered along with other community submissions including those from us and the Bowling Club. However, it would seem that they now see an opportunity via the Administrator to circumvent that due process in an attempt to get their own way.
- With regards to the number of Golf Courses on the Peninsula I pointed out the fact that whilst there may be 13 golf courses (now 12 as Avalon has closed) 6 of them are private with another 2 being 9 hole courses and it is widely known that 9 hole courses do not trade well without the support of a profitable clubhouse. Further we are at the lower end of the pricing scale with our weekend rate being \$42 as opposed to \$65 at Mona Vale and Long Reef. With that we remain one of the busiest Public access courses in Sydney catering to 45,000 players annually of all ages and abilities. We are particularly popular with the older demographic due to the level nature of our course. *Note: This is a point that we will continue to pursue as there are only two sports where the older population can continue to play and with bowls on the decline we remain the only viable option. So in effect they will be disadvantaging the older Peninsula demographic if they go forward with this.*

- Should the Course be changed to 9 holes we as a Club would need to review whether it was viable for us to continue with the sale of our clubhouse property and therefore the transfer of \$5m into the construction of an onsite clubhouse which would, in effect, belong to Council. It would further deprive the community of the proposed \$20m development of our site for a high level aged care facility.

We have requested a meeting with the Administrator and General Manager to discuss our views and ascertain their exact position on this matter. We hope that now that the cat is out of the bag they will be forthcoming with us as one of the major stakeholders in this process.

Additionally we have requested a meeting with Mike Baird, who has been supportive of us in the past, to ascertain whether his appointed Administrator has the power to overturn prior Council decisions that have gone through exhaustive due process in line with Government requirements.

I would also remind members of the promises made to us by the then Mayor Michael Regan that we would continue as an 18 hole course and that the DPPM would be adhered to in full. Then relate them to his current comments in the Daily. I will leave it to you to decide his suitability for any new Council as either the Mayor or as a Councillor. I know what I will be doing.

As always I will keep you informed when I have new information. You can rest assured that your Board will pursue this matter rigorously leaving no avenue unexplored to ensure the future of our Club.

Regards

Scott Campbell
President

15 September 2016