

ACTION ITEM

Extraordinary Ordinary Council
Tuesday, 5 December 2006

NOM - URGENCY MOTION 5/12/06 - CATHERINE HILL BAY

RESOLVED: (Councillors K Parsons/I McKenzie)

Newcastle City Council writes to the Minister for Planning, Hon. Frank Sartor, to express our strong opposition to his recent decision to approve major developments at Catherine Hill Bay (CHB), under Part 3A of the E.P. & A. Act, which will destroy the cultural significance of its unique heritage coastal village settlements and the natural landscape of the Bay and its visual catchment.

Council supports the opposition of Lake Macquarie City Council and the community to the Minister's decision on the basis that CHB is an important regional cultural and natural resource and contains two state significant conservation areas.

Council expresses strong concern with the process, which includes:

- Ignoring the decisions of Lake Macquarie City Council and the opposition of the Wallarah Peninsular Alliance (representing over 30 community and environmental groups), the National Trust of Australia (NSW) and the NSW Nature Conservation Council (the peak state body for environmental organisations)
 - Ignoring the advice of his Department of Planning and NSW Heritage Office advisors
 - Ignoring the decision of the Land and Environment Court with respect to the Rosecorp development proposal
 - Failing to honour his undertaking to place Catherine Hill Bay on the State Heritage Register.
 - Using the Lower Hunter Regional Strategy to create "development footprints" for major developers RoseCorp and Coal and Allied, which would allow for 900 new residences in an area containing about 100 houses.
 - Subverting his Department's NSW Coastal Policy by creating a totally inappropriate precedent
- B. Council calls on the NSW Government to abolish Part 3A of the E.P. & A. Act which allows the Minister to take control of any development application he sees fit without justification.