



DAVID HARRIS
Shadow Minister for the Central Coast



DEBORAH O'NEILL
Senator for New South Wales

KATHY SMITH
Member for Gosford

MEDIA RELEASE

30 September 2015

COMMUNITY HAS SPOKEN ON ATO BUILDING

Senator for New South Wales, Deborah O'Neill, Shadow Minister for the Central Coast, David Harris, and State Member for Gosford, Kathy Smith, today highlighted the intense and immediate community response that has followed from the Liberal Government's announcement of the site for their proposed ATO building in Gosford.

With hundreds of people taking to Facebook and Twitter to air their outrage, public anger and frustration has been overwhelming.

"The people have spoken, and they don't want this building on this prime land.

"I believe in bringing more jobs to Gosford, locals believe in bringing more jobs to Gosford, but not at the price of valuable community open space." Senator O'Neill said.

With construction of the four-storey building on the old Gosford Public School site not due to begin for another twelve months, cries for community consultation and a re-evaluation have come thick and fast.

"The community knows it is our land, and the community should have a say on what goes there.

"The secrecy of a closed tender process, with a deal done between Mike Baird and Tony Abbott, should not end up with public land sold off for an undisclosed amount and the construction to be done by the lowest bidder.

"Labor will not stand for Gosford to be stuck with a building that will be standing longer than this arrogant government." Senator O'Neill said.

Shadow Minister for the Central Coast, David Harris joined community concerns about the use of prime waterfront land.

"This is just another example of why the Central Coast just can't trust the local Liberals.

“With no community consultation because the Liberals think they know better, Gosford’s redevelopment will now have to work around a four-storey, brown brick monstrosity right on the waterfront.” Mr Harris said.

State Member for Gosford, Kathy Smith, has been inundated with calls of protest about this proposal by the Liberal Government

“This is just another example of total lack of understanding of public opinion and needs by the current government and their local members.

“Without any meaningful community consultation or input, this “big brother” decision will force future development of this prime land for public use to fit around a Federal Government building.

“Waterfront is in short supply for residents in the Gosford vicinity and it should be developed for recreational and leisure use by residents and visitors alike.” Ms Smith said.

Community members will come together to protest this decision at 8:30am, Saturday 3 October at the Central Coast Leagues Club Oval on Georgiana Terrace, Gosford.

END

Contact:

Senator O’Neill (02) 4367 4565



Daniel Ackling Aren't there plenty of buildings in the heart of Gosford that need renewal? This could've been the opportunity to revitalise a few old buildings

Like · Reply · 16 · 25 September at 20:37



Mark Iveli Won't be a boost to our region. No jobs will be filled by coasties. Jobs will be for people who will travel gosford from sydney. Shameless propaganda lucy.

Like · Reply · 8 · 25 September at 20:41



Helen McNairney Clearly the Central Coast Regional Development Corporation did not get the memo, because page 23 and page 33 of the infamous "Gosford City Centre Masterplan" needs to be updated from Arts and Entertainment Precinct to ATO office!

Like · Reply · 16 · 25 September at 21:10



Glenn Rowlands Please don't waste this land.

Like · Reply · 7 · 25 September at 22:53



Frederick Batey This a new 600 or the old 600 spoken about for the last 3 years .

Like · Reply · 1 · 26 September at 08:47



Ashley Forsythe Can you list some of the occupations?

Like · Reply · 26 September at 13:55