

Medowie Progress Association
PO Box 39
MEDOWIE NSW 2318

The Mayor, Councillors and General Manager
Port Stephens Council
116 Adelaide Street
RAYMOND TERRACE NSW 2324

At a Medowie Progress Association Meeting on 28 Mar 2011, unanimous agreement was given to a motion to convey to Council the community's deep disappointment over a recent Council decision to approve a supermarket development (likely to be leased by Woolworths) that does not meet the expectations of the Medowie Community.

The unanimous view of those present at the meeting was that they did not want another stand-alone shopping centre in the shape of a box surrounded by a carpark. As well as needing to comply with DCP-2007 and LEP-2000 objectives, the proposed "Woolworths" development should be made to **comply** with the requirements of the Medowie Strategy that was unanimously adopted by Council on 24 March 2009 and included the following:

- Provision of: *Male, female, parent room and disabled toilets ... Adjacent to ... a public transport hub in Medowie.*
- Improvements to traffic-flow and pedestrian safety.
- Application of minimum standards to building appearance, set backs, and consideration of adjoining properties.
- Landscaping and public space for social interaction, and the creation of street-front shopping.

Concern was also expressed that council was repeating the errors of the past which is to approve inadequate commercial facilities similar to previous commercial sites at Medowie and Tanilba Bay. To suggest that job creation overrules poor design is not a logical argument. A quality, well-designed Town Centre for Medowie will create many more jobs across a broader employment range, as it will attract more patrons. Progress is being constrained by the current "Woolworths" proposal, which **should be unanimously rejected**. It is a travesty that many Central Ward Councillors are ignoring the community that elected them.

The Medowie Progress Association **supports** the development of a second Supermarket in Medowie and we note that the general location is consistent with the Medowie Strategy. However, Councillors should not ignore the concerns of Council staff regarding the "standard of development".

On behalf of the Medowie Community, the Medowie Progress Association calls on Councillors to support Council staff recommendations to ensure that community needs are provided for, as outlined in the foregoing. We look forward to your support in correcting this situation in favour of the Medowie community.

John Donahoo
President

19 April 2011