



C A P O

COALITION AGAINST PRIVATE OVERDEVELOPMENT

(Representing the interests of the community)

Chairman: R. Clapham. Phone: 0407 900 615. Address: PO Box 537 Gladesville NSW 2111
Incorporated under the Putney and Districts Progress Association.

MEDIA RELEASE

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SARTOR TOLD: 'EXPLAIN YOUR DECISION TO THE PEOPLE'

THOUSANDS TO PROTEST DECISION ON REHABILITATION CENTRE OVERDEVELOPMENT

A massive outburst of community anger at the decision by NSW Planning Minister, Frank Sartor, to approve the controversial development of nearly 800 dwellings on the Royal Rehabilitation Centre – Sydney site has led to calls for the Minister to 'explain his decision and face the people' at public rally planned on Sunday, April 9.

Thousands of residents are expected to converge on the Parry Street entrance to Putney Public School and march onto the rehabilitation centre to voice their opposition to Minister Sartor's decision, and to call on the NSW Government to reverse the planning approval.

"Quite frankly, we are disgusted at Minister Sartor's decision and extremely annoyed at the way the Member for Ryde, John Watkins, quietly met with the developer on three occasions (admitted by the developer in an interview with 2GB's Alan Jones), but only once had time to speak with small representative group of residents six months after the application," Chairman of the Coalition Against Private Overdevelopment, Rolf Clapham said.

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“If the State Government thinks this community (Putney/Ryde) is going to roll over and accept their apparent deals with big developers, then they have seriously underestimated the anger and determination of the local people.”

“Everything about the way this matter has been handled smells. Consider that our Member for Lane Cove, Anthony Roberts (Liberal) in whose electorate this development falls, wasn’t even told about it until my group approached him with our concerns. At the same time, Member for Ryde, John Watkins, (Labor) was quietly having meetings with the developer and refusing to publicly declare his stance. Also, there had been a lack of real community consultation on this development proposal; there had been a complete disregard for the fact the Ryde City Council had previously not approved 2 proposals by the developer as unsuitable for the area; and somehow this state government even saw fit to ignore their own RTA guidelines relating to traffic density and the fact that Morrison Road (which fronts the rehabilitation centre) already is 330 times over the recommended sustainable vehicle usage,” Mr Clapham said.

Shadow Planning Minister, Chris Hartcher, is addressing the protest rally which will also be addressed by Lane Cove MP, Anthony Roberts; Ryde City Council Mayor, Ivan Petch; community representatives and Mr Clapham.

“We also have invited Mr Sartor and Mr Watkins to attend to directly address residents who will be affected by their decision. This will provide a true test of the government’s responsibility and accountability to the people,” Mr Clapham said.

News Eds/Chiefs of Staff: The media is welcome to attend this major rally. Details are:

Time/Date: Rally to assemble at 11am, Sunday, April 9.

Location: Putney Public School.

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