

Extraordinary  
Council  
Meeting in  
Springwood:  
UPDATE  
FOR  
RESIDENTS  
26 June 2010



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**SAY NO  
TO THE  
SILENT  
SEVEN**

Residents attended the Council Meeting on Tuesday night in expectation of a debate on the Springwood Town Centre Project.

They expected to participate in community democracy. They were very quickly and very brutally disillusioned.

The crowd left the meeting, bruised, shocked and distraught. The council-sponsored phone poll and survey demonstrated that after almost three years the community still rejects a supermarket/retail complex. The community will have no part of private funding to finance upgrades.

And yet seven councillors defied the community and voted for option 2, which will invite developers back into the process. Mayor Adam Searle voted in support.

However, it was when Councillors Myles, McLaren, Greenhill, Creed, Hamilton and Van Der Kley refused to speak and explain their decision the crowd gave voice to their outrage, disbelief and hurt.

It was to no avail. Supported by Mayor Searle, the SEVEN sat impassive and mute.

If this was seen as a clever tactic, it was a fatal misjudgement. They have trampled on something basic and profound: the democratic values which are so deeply ingrained, so Australian, that we take them for granted.

The storm of outrage and the feeling of loss that filled the Civic Centre continues to resonate

We thank Deputy Mayor Janet Mays, Councillors Brendan Luchetti, Eleanor Gibbs and David Clark for once again standing up for our community.

The following is just one of the unsolicited comments which reflect the widespread community anger:

... I was devastated to witness the contempt for democratic process and the will of the people at the extraordinary meeting of the BMCC 22 June 2010 regarding the so-called "revitalisation" of Springwood. The behaviour of the Councillors Van der Kley, Searle, McLaren, Hamilton, Greenhill, Myles and Creed was a disgrace to governance in that they voted against the wishes of the people then refused to address the meeting. They formed an inscrutable, contemptuous "wall" at one end of the table. It made a mockery not only of the hugely expensive rate-payer funded brochure distributed to the public in recent weeks, the hugely expensive rate-payer funded poll conducted by Iris Research but also of the meeting itself and the people attending.

The resulting decision to conduct a poll which [could result in deciding] which of the three proponents are to be given the go-ahead to develop is unacceptable, given that the majority of those already polled oppose a supermarket and a large majority support an upgrade of existing facilities which could be financed, I understand, if the council bothered to apply for grants. If this poll should go ahead, a fourth option should be included - "none of the above".

I gather from comments from others that I am not alone.

**A resident**

*Public  
sentiment in  
Springwood  
following the  
meeting*



## What was passed?

*Option 2: post stage 2 of tender poll and*  
*i. That the results of the community consultation inform the preparation of tender documentation for Request for Detailed proposals prior to any poll;*

## What is still to be passed?

*3. That the Council choose a preferred method for conducting the poll from the following:*  
*a. Attendance voting (as conducted by the Electoral Commission); or*  
*b. Declaration postal voting of all registered on the electoral roll; or*  
*c. Internet voting of all registered on the electoral roll; or*  
*d. Phone poll of all registered on the electoral roll; or*  
*e. Opinion poll of 1,000 residents by phone.*

## What does it mean?

*It means that despite the community clearly indicating that they did not want retail / supermarket complex council are progressing toward exactly that.*

*It also means that as council have clearly ignored the results of the IRIS run survey, we need to ensure that the poll is conducted by the Electoral Commission.*

## What you can do?

*Following is a list of contact details for organisations and media. We encourage you to contact them.*

Address to Chief Executive Officer in all cases

### NSW Ombudsman

Level 2  
580 George Street  
Sydney 2000

### Australian Local Government Association

8 Geils Court  
Deakin ACT 2600

### Department of Local Government

Level 9  
323 Castlereagh Street  
Sydney 2000

### Western Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils

Level 1  
WSROC House  
49 Campbell Street,  
Blacktown 2148

### Minister for Small Business

Francesco Terenzini  
Level 13  
55 Hunter Street  
Sydney 2000

### Minister for Planning

NSW Department of Planning  
23-33 Bridge Street,  
Sydney 2000

### Blue Mountains Gazette

Springwood  
274 Macquarie Rd  
Springwood NSW 2777  
Phone (02) 4751 1955  
Fax (02) 4751 5556  
Damien Madigan editor  
[damien.madigan@ruralpress.com](mailto:damien.madigan@ruralpress.com)

### Daily Telegraph

2 Holt Street,  
Sydney 2000  
website - [newsdailytelegraph.com.au](http://newsdailytelegraph.com.au)

### Sydney Morning Herald

201 Sussex St.,  
Sydney 2000  
or visit website

### Penrith Press

407 High Street,  
Penrith 2750  
website - [www.penrithpress.com.au](http://www.penrithpress.com.au)

### Penrith Star

311 High Street,  
Penrith 2750  
website - [www.penrithstar.com.au](http://www.penrithstar.com.au)

### Western Weekender

Ste 2/42-44 Abel St.,  
Jamistown 2750  
email - [editorial@mediaview.com.au](mailto:editorial@mediaview.com.au)

### Ray Hadley 2GB

**Address:**  
Radio 2GB  
Level 1, Building C,  
33-35 Saunders St  
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