

Bruce Carter - Secretary
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The Hon. Ian Macdonald, MLC
Minister for Natural Resources
Level 33 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
Sydney NSW 2000

9 February 2007

Dear Sir.

Lake Illawarra Entrance – Northern Wall

Further to our letter to you dated 5 January 2007, re the Lake Illawarra Authority (LIA) running out of funds for the project. It has come to our attention that the project is again in trouble because of a funds shortfall, only 3 months after asking Councils for additional funds because of a cost blow out.

We have now been advised that the project will not be constructed to the design specification. The (LIA) is proposing the change the approved design plans by shortening the Northern Wall by 20 meters.

FACTS from the Environment Impact Statement which forms part of the Ministers Approval.

1. Design Wall lengths and project were reduced to fit budget of \$4 million.
2. Longshore sediment transport occurs out to a depth of 8m at datum AHD.
3. Most transport takes place landward of the 3.5m AHD depth contour.
4. It would be desirable for the northern wall to extend to 3.5m AHD depth contour.
5. A wall to a depth of 2m at datum AHD is likely to experience significant sand bypassing during moderate storms.
6. The approved project had both wall positioned in equal water depth as this pushed the entrance sand bar further offshore than unequal wall lengths.

Any changes to the design will see the Entrance malfunction after spending over \$10 million.

Doug Prosser, chairman of the LIA, advised the press that the Northern Wall will have to be shortened by 20 meters.

A Webster, Shellharbour support member on the LIA Board, was asked at the Council meeting, 6 February 2007, if the Northern Wall was going to be shortened he answer "NO" to the question.

Questions:

1. Will the Northern Wall be shortened from the design specifications?
2. Why are the LIA constantly running short of funds?
3. Why was the hydro-graphic survey of Ocean bed not done before construction started?
4. Do the LIA need your Approval to alter the approved design plans?
5. Will the LIA be asking Councils for more funds?
6. Will the Government approve extra funds to finish the project as per original design?
7. Will the Government allow the project to be finished sub-standard?
8. Will the Government accept responsibility when the project fails?
9. Did the Government pay their share (\$875,000) of the first funds short fall?

We have been advised that Doug Prosser is putting a lot of pressure on to the Engineers of the Project to approve the reduction of the wall in length.

This is further proof of the mismanagement by the LIA on this project.

If the Government does not step in and commit funds to complete this project as per design specifications then our group will have to hold a rally in February asking the community and businesses in the Illawarra to help pay for the project to be finished.

We understand that the State Elections are near and your time is paramount however the decision on the shortening of the Northern Wall has to be made now.

We expect an answer to these questions now, not after the elections.

Yours Faithfully

Bruce Carter
Secretary

Cc:

Mr Adrian Piccoli, BEc LLB, MP Shadow Minister for Natural resources.
Wollongong City Council, General Manager & Councillors.
Shellharbour City Council, General Manager & Councillors.
Save Lake Illawarra Action Group's web Site.