



Mr Damien Tudehope, MP
Member for Epping
Suite 303
Level 3 51 Rawson Street
EPPING NSW 2121

Dear Damien,

Last night I spoke at the Hornsby Council meeting, seeking feedback from Council on the public meeting that the Department of Planning and Environment held at the Gumnut Community Centre at Cherrybrook on Wednesday night June 28. There is no need for me to go into details about how the Cherrybrook public meeting turned into a disaster as you already know. I was unable to attend as I had another engagement (perhaps fortunate for me) but I have received numerous complaints from local residents regarding the conduct of the meeting.

As you know various councils have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), including Hornsby Council, with the State Government. All in good faith, and all anticipating that the process of transforming the station precinct would be properly managed by the State Government. The councillors last night indicated that they too were very unhappy about the Cherrybrook meeting. I sensed within Council there was a level of disappointment and even annoyance, but also embarrassment with the way it was conducted. There is no excuse for what could be termed a debacle that occurred on the 28th of June and it reflects poorly on both levels of government but in particular the State Government. In fact I suspect the public meeting has been counterproductive in overall planning process.

May I suggest that the State Government start the consultation process again and have another, more professionally managed, public meeting. I am aware there is a tight timetable but the public perception is that the approach being taken by the State Government is rushed anyway and it is becoming too cavalier and commercially driven. The interests of the public must come first for this project to be a success.

Kind regards

Ross Walker President
Beecroft Cheltenham Civic Trust
13 July 2017