



**City Administrative Centre**

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YOUR REF:

8th July, 2004

Mr Kevin Greene MP  
Chair  
Legislative Assembly Standing  
Committee on Public Works  
Parliament of NSW  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY 2000

Dear Mr Greene

**Standing Committee on Public Works Enquiry into  
Joint Use and Co-Location of Public Buildings**

Thank you for your letter dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2004 in which you invite Shoalhaven City Council to make a submission into the abovementioned Standing Committee Enquiry.

Shoalhaven City Council has had recent experience in this field in that in October 2003 it successfully completed an Integrated Emergency Management Centre, which effectively provided accommodation for the Rural Fire Service, State Emergency Services and also an Emergency Operations Centre. In developing this project, Council recognised that it had three stakeholders to satisfy and they included the Rural Fire Service, State Emergency Services, and Shoalhaven City Council (which has an obligation to provide the Emergency Operations Centre). The total project cost \$3.2 million and was made up of a number of funding streams, which included a special rate levy on all ratepayers within the City of Shoalhaven, a 5 year staged contribution program from the Rural Fire Service and a one off grant from the State Emergency Services. Shoalhaven City Council developed the funding package and delivered the project to the satisfaction of all parties. The Centre has been operational during the December 2003 Section 44 Bushfire Event which was on the boundary of the City of Shoalhaven and Jervis Bay Territory.

The other project goes back considerably further than that and includes Shoalhaven City Council making a financial contribution to the construction of a multi-purpose hall, which was constructed as part of the Vincentia High School Project. Without carrying out extensive research on this project, my recollection is that Council contributed over \$100,000 to the project and had an expectation that it would be used for both community and school purposes. Regrettably, this outcome has not been achieved and it is apparent that very little, if any, community use is now being achieved from that building (apart from the delivery of Education services). Council's

contribution to the initial project included funding the building expansion so that it was capable of accommodating a full sized basketball court, as well as satisfying school needs. In the early days, it was used as part of a community based basketball program. However, the occasional requirement for the school to use the hall on the same night as the scheduled basketball competition and the increasing number of cancellations at the last minute from the hall not being available quickly led to the closure of the basketball circuit and therefore little use is now made by the general public.

In addition to the above, Council has participated in the construction of sports field amenities buildings at both the Nowra High School, circa 1970s, and at the Shoalhaven High School (2002) where there has been a joint community use of sporting fields by both the School community and by the general public. To date, this sharing arrangement has proved to be most satisfactory, with Council accepting full maintenance of the Nowra High School fields and an annual maintenance contribution to the Shoalhaven High School. The Shoalhaven High School project includes a high quality grassed athletic field which was jointly funded by the School, Council and the Nowra Athletics Club.

If you believe that additional information is required on any issues raised above, I would be more than happy to provide it to you.

Yours faithfully



R D Pigg

**General Manager**