



THE ENTRANCE COMMUNITY PRECINCT COMMITTEE

P0 Box 349 The Entrance 2261

7 May, 2009

Kerry Yates
The General Manager,
Wyong Shire Council,
PO Box 20,
Wyong 2259

Subject: **THE ENTRANCE LIBRARY.**

Dear Sir,

In The Entrance Peninsula Planning Strategy the following statements were made:

- *The District Library and Customer Services Centre currently provides a popular service to local residents and visitors to The Entrance Town Centre. It also acts as a draw card which assists businesses in the Town Centre as people shop after attending the Library.*
- *Consideration is being given to relocating the Library to a new district facility at Bateau Bay to enable modernisation and expansion of regional library services in The Entrance Social Planning District.*

It was with alarm and consternation that the members of our Precinct Committee read these conflicting statements: In one breadth it states the library provides a popular service to local residents and visitors to The Entrance Town Centre and then states that consideration is being given to relocating the Library to a new district facility at Bateau Bay. The need for a branch of the library to remain at The Entrance can be justified on many levels:

The Entrance has an above average percentage of senior citizens, people with disabilities and the unemployed. We consider that a transfer of the library service to Bateau Bay would result in:

- in many being residents being denied access to a library as many would find it too difficult to travel to Bateau Bay and/or they no longer can drive or afford a car;
- the loss of an important WSC local service to the residents as they are able to pay Council rates at this convenient site ;
- potential loss of business to local businesses as many residents do their shopping at Lakeside, go to the library and have a coffee break as part of their regular weekly routine
- loss of convenient and affordable access to the use of a computer and internet at the local library as many lower income residents cannot afford their own;

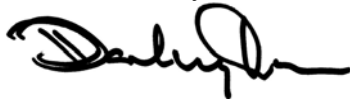
Further, the decision of Council to encourage further development of Bay Village shopping centre and any consideration by WSC to removing a valuable WSC service from the Entrance, can be considered at direct odds with The Entrance Peninsula Planning Scheme, which proposes increased development of shops at Lakeside and The Entrance Town Centre and new the proposed neighbourhood shopping centres at the Entrance North and Long Jetty.

The loss of the library would be seen as another set back to the viability of the retail section following on the loss of Woolworths, NRMA, Banks and green grocers to Bay Village. It would seem that this downward trend precipitated by the relocation of the WSC library could well continue, and we could expect the loss of Centrelink, RTA and Medicare in the future.

Therefore, The Entrance Community Precinct Committee strongly urges Council to strongly reject any consideration being given to relocating the Library to a new district facility at Bateau Bay. We are aware that Ryde Council is exploring ways to combat the economic downturn and are looking into using the library as a business technology hub and suggest that WSC further investigate this innovation. Further, we recommend that WSC also investigate redeveloping the Library into an intergenerational facility with bookshop/ library/ coffee shop with computer/internet services.

It would be appreciated if Council would inform the Precinct Committee that it really does support The Entrance residents and shopkeepers by allaying our fears that Council is not supporting the further degradation of amenities at The Entrance.

Yours Sincerely



Douglas Darlington

Secretary

The Entrance Community Precinct Committee

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