

ITEM NO: 17

SUBJECT: PRECIS OF SELECTED CORRESPONDENCE, 26.08.2008

FILE NO: F03480

Recommendations:

That the Précis of Selected Correspondence be received and appropriate letters forwarded where necessary.

1. 8 August 2008 – Linda Scolah, NSW Electoral Commission

Email confirming that pre-poll facilities will be provided at Springwood and Blaxland for the upcoming Local Government election (**attachment 1**).

2. 12 August 2008 – Letter to the Hon. Reba Meagher, Minister for Health

Expressing the Council's outrage at the closure of the Maternity Unit at Katoomba Hospital and urging the Minister to reopen it at the earliest opportunity (**attachment 2**).

3. 12 August 2008 – Letter to the Hon. Morris Iemma, NSW Premier

Expressing the Council's strong opposition to the State Government's proposal to privatise and lease the NSW power industry (**attachment 3**).

4. 18 August 2008 – Letter to the Hon. Nicola Roxon MP, Minister for Health and Aging

Requesting that the Minister upgrade the classification of the Blue Mountains Division of General Practice to RRMA category 3 - large rural centres (**attachment 4**).

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Attachment 1

From: Linda Scolah [mailto:linda.scolah@elections.nsw.gov.au]
Sent: Friday, 8 August 2008 3:20 PM
To: Julie Bargenquast
Cc: Blue Mountains
Subject: RE: Pre-Poll Facilities

Julie,

The NSW Electoral Commission (NSWEC) has implemented the following:

Springwood Council Office, pre-poll to be available from Mon 8 Sept to Fri 12 Sept 9am to 5pm daily. The venue, Sassafras room has been confirmed as the location for conducting the pre-poll activities. If Council requires payment for use of this room, please forward a tax invoice and provide the EFT details and I will organise payment. The Returning Officer will organise the staffing for this.

The search for a suitable venue to conduct pre-poll at Blaxland has resulted in a suitable location secured at 2/146 Great Western Highway Blaxland 2774 operating hours will be 9am to 5pm daily. The details will be published the same way as all other pre-poll locations.

The Returning Officer has organised all staffing for Blaxland and Springwood.

Thankyou for your assistance in this regard,
I am unaware of how the Councillors established this information prior to the NSWEC finalising the details. Now that all arrangements have been finalised the information about this additional pre-poll is considered appropriate to be made public.

Kind regards

Linda Scolah

Linda Scolah
Election Resources and Services Team Leader

Attachment 2



Office of the General Manager

File Number: F03480

Document Number: 08/075539

12 August 2008

The Hon. Reba Paige Meagher
Minister for Health
Level 40 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister,

**CLOSURE OF THE MATERNITY UNIT – BLUE MOUNTAINS
DISTRICT ANZAC MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, KATOOMBA**

At the 5 August 2008 Council Meeting, it was unanimously resolved that I write to you as a matter of urgency over the closure of the Maternity Unit in the Katoomba District Hospital.

The Council, in resolving on this matter, asked me to convey their profound outrage at this closure. The Council strongly urges you to reopen the Maternity Unit at the earliest possible opportunity, thus ensuring the sustained wellbeing of our mothers, fathers and babies in the Blue Mountains.

A request was also made that a copy of this letter for forwarded to the Member for the Blue Mountains, Mr Phil Koperberg, asking for his assistance in this matter.

If you need further information regarding the Council's stance please do not hesitate to contact either the Mayor or General Manager.

Yours sincerely

PHIL PINYON
General Manager

Cc Mr Phil Koperberg

Attachment 3



Office of the General Manager

File Number: F03480

Document Number: 08/075541

12 August 2008

The Hon. Morris Iemma
Level 40 Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Premier,

PRIVATISATION OF THE NSW POWER INDUSTRY

At the 5 August 2008 Council Meeting, it was unanimously resolved that I write to you as a matter of urgency regarding Council's strong opposition to the State Government's proposal to privatise and lease the NSW power industry.

The Council supports its community and in particular, the significant number of people employed in the power industry and demonstrates this support by expressing its opposition to the State Government's proposals regarding the NSW power industry.

The Council calls on the NSW Government to better manage NSW's future energy needs and take urgent action in response to climate change by investing in energy efficiency in homes and businesses and increasing its renewable energy targets.

A request was also made that a copy of this letter be forwarded to the Member for the Blue Mountains, Mr Phil Koperberg, asking for his assistance in this matter.

If you need further information regarding the Council's stance please do not hesitate to contact either the Mayor or General Manager.

Yours sincerely

PHIL PINYON
General Manager

Cc Mr Phil Koperberg

Attachment 4



18 August 2008

Office of the General Manager
Reference File: 08/075507 - CSR 98780

The Hon Nicola Roxon MP
Minister for Health and Aging
204 Nicholson Street
Footscray VIC 3011

Dear Sir/Madam

SUBJECT **Blue Mountains Division of Practice - Rural and Remote
Metropolitan Area Classification System**

At the Council meeting of 5 August 2008, the Blue Mountains City Council resolved:

That the Council, as a matter of urgency, writes to the Hon. Nicola Roxon MP, Minister for Health and Aging, requesting that, during the review of the Rural and Remote Metropolitan Area Classification System, the Blue Mountains area of the Blue Mountains Division of General Practice be upgraded from RRMA category 1 (capital cities) to the more appropriate RRMA category 3 (large rural centres).

It is requested that you reconsider the classification of the Blue Mountains Division of General Practice to be upgraded from RRMA category 1 (capital cities) to the more appropriate RRMA category 3 (large rural centres).

Should you wish to discuss this matter further please contact Ms Rosemary Dillon, Council's Manager Corporate Planning on 4780 5679.

Yours faithfully

PHIL PINYON
General Manager

cc: The Hon Bob Debus, Minister for Home Affairs and Member for Macquarie