



The Palm Beach  
& Whale Beach  
Association Inc.

## **Updates from the President since the AGM.**

### **15 Ocean Rd Development Application**

The Land & Environment Court has approved this DA despite having what appears to be many non-compliant issues. The DA was unanimously rejected by the Council's independent local planning panel. The developer submitted new plans to the Court which, in our opinion, did not show any significant changes however the Court approved the DA.

It was noted at the on-site meeting that there was a problem with beach erosion opposite number 11, which is still a major building site and no 9 which is now completed. The excavation which took place for both properties was extensive - like a "quarry". Water is running under the road onto the beach and causing major erosion. The footpath on the eastern side of Ocean Rd is in danger of collapse.

### **Rate rises.**

IPART has approved a 25% rate rise over two years for the Northern Beaches Council. This will result in an increase of rates in Palm Beach & Whale Beach.

### **Northern Beaches Hospital.**

There was a very well attended meeting about the Northern Beaches Hospital held at Dee Why RSL. The meeting was arranged by local State members Jacqui Scruby and Michael Regan.

Local Federal MPs Dr Sophie Scamps and Zali Steggall OAM MP, NSW Shadow Health Minister Kellie Sloane, and NSW MP for Manly James Griffin, along with former NSW Premier Barrie Unsworth, were all present at the meeting. The audience included families, community members, staff from the hospital and their representatives, and NSW Health counselling support.

I asked a question at the meeting.

The Government is negotiating with Healthscope regarding taking over of the public component of the hospital

However the whole of the hospital both public and private needs to be taken over. It will not work if only the public hospital is taken over. The Community has lost confidence in Healthscope to run the health services on the Northern Beaches. This was confirmed in the auditor general's report which was extremely damning of the services provided.

The hospital needs to be upgraded to a level six teaching hospital. This is what the Northern Beaches residents deserve. The catchment area is over 300,000 people and is large enough to justify a teaching hospital. All the services need to be upgraded - neuro surgery, cardiac surgery, major trauma, stroke unit, paediatric services and mental health etc.

The public and private patients should all get the same treatment. This does not necessarily happen at present.

**Professor Richard West AM MB BS FRACS FRCS**