

Blue Mountains Gazette

1 May 2008

I am delighted that John Sheehy and the Association of Concerned Mid Mountains Residents is putting their hands into their own pockets to fund a NSW Land & Environment Court challenge arguing the sale of the community hall to the RTA in 1989 was illegal.

I will be even more delighted if they lose this case and then get hit with party-party costs, and therefore end up needing to reimburse the Council for all the rate payers money it needs to devote to the defending this case.

Councillors who voted in favour of the motion to permit the demolition of this hall should be congratulated for doing their jobs properly and not falling for this dinky little groups attempt to pressure them into wasting millions on this clearly decrepit building. Councillors who voted against - McInnes, O'Grady, Searle and Trindall - should not their heads in shame.

NSW has been held hostage for 30 years by heritage fanatics like these who consider their hobbies should be subsidized to the tune of millions by rate payers. I hope they now take the heritage user pays approach to the next logical step and run a collection to buy properties they believe are heritage worthy to be retained. That way then can pour their personal resources into their hobby and let the rest of us get decent roads and other infrastructure we so badly need.

Congratulations to Planning Minister Sartor for his recent review of the NSW Heritage Act and bring on the recommendations asap please. Any heritage owners interested in a better deal in NSW can contact us at sohonsw@gmail.com

C. Hayward

Society of Heritage Owners