



Mayoral Matter of Urgency

That the Council now considers a matter arising in relation to Wildlife Park and Tourist Facility at Wentworth Falls that has been ruled by the Mayor to be a matter of great urgency.

MINUTE NO. 50

Procedural - Matter of Urgency

A MOTION was MOVED by Councillors Greenhill and Hollywood :

1. That the Council notes our resolution regarding the Wildlife Park and Tourist Facility at Wentworth Falls on 28 February 2023;
2. That the Council notes that a meeting is being arranged between Council, Trish Doyle MP and Paul Scully MP the new Minister for Planning to discuss this matter;
3. That the Council notes the recent request from the applicant to the Department of Planning and Environment to amend the Planning Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) and that, if this request is supported, this will result in a two year extension of the deadline to lodge an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project. Council input on the request to amend the SEARs must be made by 9 May 2023;
4. That the Council notes the request to amend the SEARs may be an attempt by the project applicant to gain a further extension of time. The amended proposal which is the subject of the request for amended SEARs is similar to the original proposal which formed the basis of the original SEARs. It represents a gross overdevelopment of this sensitive site which is likely to breach multiple aspects of our Council's Local Environment Plan and Development Control Plan including:
 - a. building footprints and hardstand areas encroaching into our Environmental Protection zone;
 - b. clearing of protected bushland;
 - c. exceeding building height limits;
 - d. being visually prominent and impacting on the scenic values of the Blue Mountains;
5. That the Council writes to the Department of Planning and Environment, as well as the new Minister for Planning, with a copy to the Member for Blue Mountains,

