



Media Release

2nd March 2014

Sack Council, appoint Administrator and investigate Griffin St Callala Beach land debacle

Fiona Phillips (Boyd) B.Econ UoN, M.Bus UNSW

Callala Beach resident, and Labor spokesperson for South Coast, Fiona Phillips, is calling on the NSW Minister for Local Government to sack the elected Shoalhaven City Council, appoint an Administrator, and properly investigate where the Council failings occurred in relation to the December 2010 auction of **three blocks of waterfront reserve land** at Griffin St Callala Beach for just over **\$6,000 each**. The combined 3000m² land was meant to be resumed by Council for a public reserve to protect the foreshore and environmentally sensitive land; instead Council put the land up for auction for unpaid rates.

The land is the subject of a Development Application, with the matter now being taken to the NSW Land and Environment Court, for a hearing scheduled locally on 8th April 2014, which ironically is costing ratepayers money.

Mrs Phillips said this issue has caused **great angst** within the Callala Beach community. There are a lot of concerned people at **Callala Beach**, from **Sydney**, throughout **NSW** and **interstate**, that have expressed grave concerns that Council could ever let this happen. Mrs Phillips said that a number of people have indicated that they have contacted the Shoalhaven Mayor, Member for South Coast and Member for Gilmore, to little avail, and no inquiry has commenced, which Mrs Phillips said, is simply not good enough for elected representatives.

Mrs Phillips said there appeared great “haze” over why the resumption of land in accordance with the **1994 Deed of Agreement** did not occur. There has also been no real answers given by Council why the auction advertisement contained the words “**cannot be built upon**”.

Mrs Phillips said she completed a formal Government Information Public Access Application, and from the information received in January 2014, was surprised to see Council taking a different path from “resumption” of the land. From the documents it is not clear, at what stage and why Council abandoned “resumption” and sent the land off to auction for unpaid rates, and with no consultation with the community. There are a lot of questions that need to be answered, and ultimately the matter needs to be investigated properly and appropriate action taken.

Mrs Phillips says, if the Council is “worth its salt”, it would have taken action to investigate what went so horribly wrong, and bought the land back for the community. Clearly that’s not the case and a truly “independent” Administrator needs to be appointed to investigate.

Mrs Phillips is calling on the NSW Minister for Local Government to have the NSW Division of Local Government sack the Shoalhaven City Council, appoint an Administrator, properly investigate where the failings occurred and take appropriate action.

Written and authorised by Fiona Phillips Ph: 0434 626669 E: fiona@fionaphillipsforsouthcoast.com

Website: www.fionaphillipsforsouthcoast.com Facebook: [Fiona Phillips For South Coast](https://www.facebook.com/FionaPhillipsForSouthCoast)