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1 September 2010

The Hon Kristina Keneally MP  
Premier  
Minister for Redfern Waterloo  
Governor Macquarie Tower  
1 Farrer Place, Sydney NSW 2000

cc. Minister for Health

Dear Premier

## **SHOROC submission on the 'Health Reform in NSW' discussion paper**

### **Background**

SHOROC is a partnership between the councils that make up the region of the Northern Beaches from Bradleys Head to Barrenjoey - Manly, Mosman, Pittwater and Warringah councils. The SHOROC Board comprises the Mayor and General Managers from all four partner councils.

The SHOROC region covers an area of approximately 288km<sup>2</sup>, has a population of around 272,000 people, is home to around 100,000 jobs and is characterised by a high proportion of residents that live and work locally. It has an outstanding natural environment, vibrant community, large influx of tourists and weekend visitors and makes a significant contribution to global Sydney.

Health is a major issue for our region, with lack of access to an appropriate and accessible high quality health service detailed as one of the critical issues for our region now, and one to be compounded with population growth and an ageing population in years ahead, in SHOROC's draft regional strategy *Shaping Our Future*.

SHOROC welcomes the opportunity to comment on the 'Health Reform in NSW' discussion paper.

### **Local Health Network boundaries**

The SHOROC region is currently part of the Northern Sydney Central Coast Area Health Service.

The SHOROC Board supports the proposed Local Health Network boundaries in regard to our region, including the creation of the Northern Sydney Local Health Network and the separation of the Northern Sydney and Central Coast Area Health Services.

### **Governance Structure**

The SHOROC Board recommends that the Governing Council of the Northern Sydney Local Health Network should include at least one Mayor or Councillor from the local councils.

It is noted in particular that the Governing Councils are to “comprise members with a variety of health, clinical, business and other skills” and that a key role is to maintain effective communicating with the State and relevant local stakeholders.

Councils have a strong relationship with the local community, businesses and key stakeholders and would bring strong skills to the table of the Governing Councils.

In particular for the SHOROC region, councils have a significant interest in and potential contribution to the effective and efficient management of health services across the region. Representation on the Governing Council of at least one Mayor or Councillor from the local councils would mean a stronger working relationship between the Local Health Networks and local government with existing collaborative arrangements such as SHOROC already in place to facilitate clear communication and agreement between the proposed Governing Council representative and other Mayors and elected representatives.

### ***Shaping Our Future – priorities for our region.***

The SHOROC councils, Manly, Mosman, Pittwater and Warringah, have developed *Shaping Our Future* as a draft regional strategy to address the critical issues for our region and the challenges ahead, seeking to strategically shape the way our region will look, feel and grow over the next twenty years.

*Shaping Our Future* outlines the priority investment in transport and health required, as well as how the councils will accommodate the population growth, housing and jobs targets set by the NSW Government for the region. The draft *Shaping Our Future* can be downloaded from [www.shoroc.com/shapingourfuture](http://www.shoroc.com/shapingourfuture)

In regard to health, *Shaping Our Future* outlines that investment is critical to address current major issues and barriers to future growth, including:

- Lack of appropriate access to high quality hospital and complementary health services across the region.
- Declining quality and availability of current services.
- The effects of an ageing population and higher proportion of residents aged over 65 years than the rest of Sydney, bringing with it a greater need for enhancement of acute and community health services, access to carers, health and community care services, housing and residential care options.

The priorities for the health services of the SHOROC region as outlined in *Shaping Our Future* are:

- Northern Beaches Hospital: Immediate construction of the level 5 Northern Beaches Hospital and ancillary and private services at Frenchs Forest as well as the major road infrastructure required:
  - grade separation at the intersections of Wakehurst Parkway and Warringah Road to avoid gridlock around the hospital
  - upgrades to Wakehurst Parkway to provide flood-free access.
- Complementary Hospital at Mona Vale: upgrade and confirmation of the complementary role of Mona Vale Hospital, networking effectively with the new Northern Beaches Hospital.
- Improved ambulance services that respond to and serve the redistribution of the health services to Frenchs Forest.
- Improved public health, mental health and related services to the broad community need including nursing homes and geriatric services.
- Retaining the Manly Hospital site for community and education services.

Local government will play a pivotal role in the future of greater Sydney. The SHOROC councils would appreciate your response and would welcome further discussion with the NSW Government on the matters raised in this submission. We would also welcome a strong collaborative partnership approach to implementation of priority strategies to address the issues facing our region now and for the future.

Yours sincerely

Cr Anne Connon  
Mayor of Mosman  
SHOROC President