

Legal action is justified

I AM writing to congratulate the Brunswick Valley Sports Association (BVSA) on its decision to take legal action over the issue of sportsfields and the possible sale of Lot 107, Shara Boulevard, at Ocean Shores.

The views of Ocean Shores residents have been totally ignored by Byron Shire Council in regard to this issue, and I can fully understand how the BVSA has been forced to make this difficult decision.

After many years of debate on this topic there seems to be no good reason for the council to abandon plans to use Lot 107 for sportsfields.

There has been talk of the land's environmental significance and yet the current Premier, Morris Iemma, stated in correspondence to State Member for Ballina Don Page in 2000 that: "Lot 107 was mostly cleared and, therefore, has no potential as an environmental facility site".

This was documented when Mr

Iemma was Minister for Public Works and Services. (Please view www.brunswickvalley.com.au/sportsfields for a full copy of this letter and numerous other documents relating to the history of the sportsfields issue).

I also believe many residents are sceptical of council's intentions in regard to the Lot 102 site at Yelgun.

Experience has told us that purchasing land supposedly for sportsfields does not necessarily mean that sportsfields will be forthcoming.

Also, I have serious concerns about the Yelgun site for a number of reasons: It is a long way from households and existing infrastructure; at \$1.3 million it is an expensive parcel of land that has many environmental constraints attached to it; it is an inconvenient distance for parents to drive to when compared with the Shara Boulevard site; and it will be very close to a highway truck stop which raises concerns for the safety

of children.

I'm also a little confused by the fact the council might consider a site that will add traffic to local roads when emissions from car exhausts have been identified as an environmental concern.

It is most disappointing to see our community plunged into a situation where ratepayers are forced to take legal action against the council.

However, in light of council's refusal to listen to the wishes of the people, I believe the BVSA was forced to take this stance as it is in the best interests of the community.

I wish the BVSA all the best in its pursuit of justice on this issue.

LISA RUSSELL,
Ocean Shores.

■ What do you think?

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