



Mr G McDonald
General Manager
Upper Hunter Shire Council
PO Box 208
Scone NSW 2337

Gummun Place Aged Care Hostel - The Future

Dear Greg

In response to Council's recent actions to devolve itself of the running of the Gummun Place Aged Care Hostel, many residents and ratepayers within the Upper Hunter Shire have expressed their concern over the uncertain future of this excellent and essential facility. The ground swell in reaction to Council's published intentions has been enormous.

In light of these widely held concerns, the Merriwa District Progress Association (MDPA) has launched a survey in an attempt to discover how local residents and other interested parties would prefer to see Gummun Place maintained and managed in the future. The results of this survey will be made available to Council after they have been collated and analysed.

In the meantime, the MDPA asks that Council NOT make any decisions regarding Gummun Place that would restrict future options for its ongoing presence.

We note that Council has called for nominations for a Gummun Place Hostel Advisory Committee. Amongst other duties, the committee is charged with facilitating open communication between Council and the Merriwa community regarding the future of Gummun Place. As nominations are open until 7 February, and the committee has obviously not met yet, we again ask that Council defer making any decisions regarding the future of Gummun Place.

In Council's recent Expression of Interest (EOI), Council has floated the possibility of selling Gummun Place Hostel. The MDPA, on behalf of the wider local community, strongly objects to that course of action. It is generally understood that the facility belongs to the local community in every respect, and that the Council is simply a caretaker (albeit a reluctant one these days).

We would like to extend an open invitation for Council to meet with a select group of interested locals to discuss the future of Gummun Place. We ask that Council NOT make any decisions regarding the Gummun Place Aged Care Hostel in Merriwa before the wishes of the local community have been determined and the majority of residents have agreed with the future operation of Gummun Place.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Gowland
President

Tuesday, 28 January 2025

Cc: All UHSC Councillors

MERRIWA DISTRICT PROGRESS ASSOCIATION INC.