



Sharon Grierson MP
Federal Member for Newcastle

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MEDIA RELEASE

FINAL DECISION ON NOBBYS PROPOSAL

Federal Member for Newcastle Sharon Grierson said today that Minister Garrett's final decision on the Nobbys Headland development proposal has been made with absolute respect for the views of the Newcastle community and the heritage values of Nobbys Lighthouse.

Ms Grierson said that, while the decision will disappoint some, it was clear that the Newcastle community was united in its view that public access to Nobbys is paramount.

"The challenge now is to find a solution that both protects the heritage values of NSW's oldest surviving lighthouse and opens Nobbys Headland up to public access," Ms Grierson said.

"Although I had expressed a personal view on this proposal, I respect and accept the Minister's final decision to disallow this proposal on heritage grounds."

"During the consultation process I conveyed to the Minister the views of the community that were expressed to me, both for and against the development. The Minister's deliberations on this matter included a visit to the site and careful consideration of all submissions made from members of the Newcastle community."

"That the process has taken 5 years is regrettable, but shows just what a challenge this proposal presented for decision-makers at all levels of government in trying to get the balance right."

"It has aroused strong feelings among supporters and opponents alike, and I congratulate the people of Newcastle for voicing their opinions on this issue. It certainly reflects how important the heritage icon Nobbys is to our community."

"I understand the disappointment of the proponents, but would encourage them to begin dialogue on a new way forward that protects the lighthouse's heritage values and opens it to public access."

"I have offered my assistance in working with the proponents and the Minister on this process."

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