

THE FIGHT FOR BRIGHTON LAWN
(the Society's reply to Council)

8TH SEPTEMBER, 1995

Councillor D. Campbell
Lord Mayor of Wollongong
41 Burelli Street
Wollongong. 2500

My Dear Lord Mayor,

RE: Proposed Kiosk/Amenities Building for Brighton Lawn Park,
Cliff Road, Wollongong (referred to as the Development)

The Society thanks you for your letter dated 25th August, 1995.

It is noted that planing in a city area is no easy task. It is further noted that part of the purpose of the Foreshore Management Plan was to detail those public amenities, to which Section 94 Contribution would be applied. You might care to comment on the proposition that a public amenity being identified in 1988, creates a binding obligation on Council to provide it precisely that way. We would be surprised if this is so. In relation to the kiosk relocation as per that plan, that proposal seems to be a secondary one in the Foreshore Plan. The Mount keira Tramway Bridge restoration appears to be the primary purpose. Is this now to occur? In terms of public interest, had the matter ben raised in 1988/89 our Society is more than likely to have had the same view as it has today.

Today six (6) years later there are changes. The complex, opened in 1988 (Fisherman's Co-op), contains a kiosk and toilets of its own. The Brighton Lawn Reserve is larger, as the Foreshore plan had designed it to be and more appealing as a thoroughfare and passive recreation area. The multi-storey home unit development has a large impact in the area generally and will do so on any tramway bridge development. The proposed development of the Old Court House and its general amenity is close to becoming a reality. It is a pity that Council did not have regard to these matters in coming to its decision. We express our astonishment that Council did confirm its decision..

The exhaustive process followed in 1995 by the Council is noted. We said in our let-

ter dated 4th August, 1995 to the responsible Minister, Council was in a unique position as acting as judge on its own development application. It had as early as middle 1994, on our information, sought the minister's consent, as owner, to its development application and what followed was the process you have referred to.

In this context, on such a sensitive issue, and bearing in mind how the political process was conducted, that process and its result is open to challenge, on the ground that Council was more concerned with the form than the substance.

Osborne Park has the size to accommodate a kiosk in many locations. It is suspected that the developer would reject any such siting.

We remain unconvinced on the size argument. It is the activity which is more significant and which will impact on the amenity of Brighton Lawn.

It was noticed in the press recently where Mr N. Wran, former Labor Premier, and now involved in the Trust controlling Centennial Park called on the citizens to be zealous in resisting claims on public park land. We are resisting the development and will continue to do so.

Yours truly,

P.F. Daly, President
Illawarra Historical Society.