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From: [Mark & Bassma Horton](#)

To: [ElectorateOffice Pittwater](#)

Sent: Monday, July 16, 2018 11:53 AM

Subject: SAVE MONA VALE HOSPITAL

Dear Rob

A rally has been organised to save Mona Vale Hospital and especially to stop the demolition the main hospital building. I challenge you to attend the meeting at Mona Vale Memorial Hall at 7.00 pm on Wednesday 18 July 2018.

The community has never been given the opportunity to properly express their views on the planned closure of the Mona Vale Hospital's Emergency Department and its associated Surgical Department and other buildings including the chapel and old Nurses Quarters.

Why not also ask Brad Hazzard to attend this meeting to listen to local residents and hopefully to lend your support for this last ditch campaign. It is not a rally to oppose the new Northern Beaches Hospital but there is hope that we can still reason with 'you' NSW Government in regard to the existing Mona Vale Hospital and its buildings.

Demolition of the buildings, the out of sight out of mind policy being used is not acceptable. We are sick and tired of being told by our politicians and health authorities that they know what is best for us.

After nearly five years of campaigning I have not received any undertaking that there are plans to upgrade or improve road or public transport access to the new Northern Beaches Hospital through the Wakehurst Parkway corridor from Narrabeen.

The alternate route to Frenchs Forest through Mona Vale Road to Forest Way is also a long way off being upgraded. It could take another decade based on the current low level commitment by the NSW Government. I have the correspondence to back up my claims.

With a conservative estimate of a population increase of at least 40,000 for the Northern Beaches to 2036 it is clear that here is a place for Mona Vale Hospital to operate as it is now as a Schedule 4 public hospital.

The population growth of course will be as a result of an increase in new dwellings. If we have to have all the housing growth for the Northern Beaches then MONA VALE Hospital MUST Be Retained for Surgical & Emergency as the Frenchs Forest privately run hospital will not be enough.

Don't forget that in addition to a potential 3,000 plus more dwellings in the Frenchs Forest area, Ingleside is also targeted for another 3,000 plus dwellings and there is the continuing development of Warriewood Valley and bigger buildings at Dee Why.

The push for more density as part of the Mona Vale Place Plan and the push for more dwellings in Brookvale with more high rise housing adds to the woes. Manly Vale is also targeted for more density and no doubt other suburbs, particularly along the current B-Line bus route.

Under the current NSW planning, all of Mona Vale Hospital's surgical wards including acute care function, operating theatres, intensive care, maternity and children's wards will close forever. All that will remain at Mona Vale will be Rehabilitation and Community Health with the facility to continue only for Acute Care.

The plans to maintain what will be called an Urgent Care facility is to be staffed. I am informed, by 2 doctors and 2 nurses a shift – not as an Emergency Department. I know that what is planned are a 10-bed palliative care facility and a geriatric assessment unit. Only 10 Palliative Care beds are on offer for a population of over 260,000.

The hospital that we all know and love is to be demolished it seems because of claims that it is asbestos ridden- why then if this is an issue, is it still operating?

Demolition is planned so that we cannot use the hospital for future or existing hospital services or for that matter as a community facility with uses such as women's refuge, community arts, performance or meeting spaces, or even as a university satellite campus.

Why cannot the old nurses' quarters be used to house local emergency or medical services workers? As one of the largest pieces of NSW Government infrastructure on the Northern Beaches why is the building to be demolished?

Knocking down the main Mona Vale Hospital buildings is the destruction of our last public hospital on the Northern Beaches. It will be many decades if at all before we have a real public hospital on the Northern Beaches again, if ever. I am aware that there is an option for Healthscope to hand back the public hospital component to the NSW Government after 20 years but how would this work?

It seems far too complex. Are we all that affluent that we can do without a public hospital? The NSW Government has sold us out to the God of private sector profitability. Nowhere else in NSW has a similar public-private partnership been introduced for a local hospital?

Our local Liberal Members have sold us their constituents out in favour of private sector profit making. What will remain at Mona Vale is not a public hospital but in the main, a facility for rehabilitation and sadly I say the elderly and dying.

Are you really convinced that the additional 200 beds to be made available at the new Northern Beaches Hospital over and above that currently at Mona Vale and Manly Hospitals will be enough?

Are you seriously convinced that Northern Beaches public patients will be retained with the same number of beds or more at Frenchs Forest and that the option to transport them to the Royal North Shore, especially for heart and burn patients, will only be a last resort?

I have serious doubts that our NSW Government and health authorities have done their sums correctly. Surely Healthscope, a for-profit business, will be seeking to fill the extra 200 beds with private fee paying patients.

Healthscope is first and foremost a business and would be seeking to attract business from the Mater Hospital, Sydney Adventist Hospital, North Shore Private Hospital and even St Vincent's Private Hospital.

It is really up to you to Save Mona Vale Hospital.

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