

These marina precinct modifications are in no way like the original plans. The people who have bought in Shell Cove and the residents of the City of Shellharbour were promised a seaside development with the only high rise being the hotel which was originally going to be 6 storeys and now its going to be 11.

There is no provision for the preservation and enjoyment of the natural resources and coastal environment. The construction of the marina and its breakwaters will mean a loss of more than half of South Shellharbour beach, the local residents will be denied direct access to Bass Point, and with an increase in the total number of dwellings increased from 1238 to 1556 plus more apartment blocks of 4-6 storeys, the area will be very crowded and have very little open space.

It certainly will not be a friendly family oriented area. It will look more like the Queensland Gold Coast development, which is not what either the local residents of the City or the residents of Shell cove want or were promised. I can clearly remember at a Council meeting many years ago when the development was first mooted, one Councillor telling us that she was in favour of the marina development because "it would be just like the Gold Coast." She now is hoping to get just that.

Obviously Fraser Property Australia do not live in the area; obviously they do not appreciate the quiet, peaceful and beauty of the area as it is now. It seems that they are only interested in constructing as many dwellings as possible, without any thought to the destruction of the lifestyle which we now enjoy.

It is obvious that no thought has been given to the provision of essential services such as schools, hospitals and transport. Has any thought been given to a site for a school, for a hospital, for public transport into and out of the area? I don't see any provision for any of these very necessary services on the plan that we have been shown.

It appears that almost all the land immediately around the shore of the marina will be high rise, including an hotel of 11 storeys. When the concept plan for the marina itself was discussed at the Commission of Inquiry into it back in the late 80s and early 90s, when the hotel was going to be, if I remember correctly, 6 storeys, not one developer could be found who wanted to build it. Is it still the same situation today?

I am opposed to the changes planned. I believe if Fraser Property were honest and concerned about the area and the people who live in the Shellharbour area, they would have called a Public Meeting so that all residents could have explained to them what the proposal is, why the changes need to be made, if indeed they do need to be made and what advantages the changes will provide to the community. It is not too late for that to happen.

As this is a major project, which affects not just Shell Cove but at least all of the City of Shellharbour area, the general public must have the opportunity to hear what is proposed to happen. Some of us have the time to go and look at the plan at the Council, some of us can look on our computers but a great number of people do not have those opportunities.

I therefore request that the Department of Planning organise such a Public Meeting before any decision is made.