

Our ref: LMF24/85

Chis Hayes
President
Red Head Villages Association

Via email: rhva.secretary@gmail.com

7 March 2024

Subject: Don Hearn's Cabins

Dear Chris

Thank you for your email of 27 February 2024 to the Hon Stephen Kamper MP, Minister for Lands and Property regarding Don Hearn's Cabins. The Minister has asked me to respond to you on his behalf. I appreciate your reasons for writing and understand that people are attached to Don Hearn's Cabins due to the location, history and affordability.

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure - Crown Lands (the Department) has indicated its intention to terminate the tenure for the site and request vacant possession of the premises by 30 June 2024.

The buildings are legacy structures from the 1960s and no longer meet current building and fire safety standards. They may also contain fibro asbestos, lead-based paint, and possibly other contaminants, presenting potential risks for all visitors. The Department has conducted assessments that identified issues including the poor condition of the buildings, bushfire risk, sewage infrastructure problems, and presence of endangered ecological communities. The cabins are not heritage listed.

The leaseholder has been given until 11 March 2024 to provide a submission as to why the termination should not proceed and any submission will be assessed prior to a final decision being made. Assistance has been offered for the occupant to find alternate accommodation.

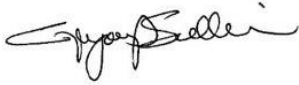
The Department is also engaging with Shoalhaven City Council on the future management of the site including alternate affordable accommodation options, should the termination of the lease progress.

Redevelopment of the site is considered uneconomical. Adequate bushfire protection standards are also difficult to implement given the site is rated as extreme bushfire risk and the surrounding vegetation includes an Endangered Ecological Community which requires protection.

I trust this assists with understanding the issues and complexities surrounding the site.

I have asked that Ms Kirsti Sampson, Area Manager South Coast at the Department, be available should you have any further questions or concerns. Ms Sampson can be contacted on 0473 184 322 or via email kirsti.sampson@crowland.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Sullivan', with a stylized, cursive script.

Greg Sullivan
Executive Director, Land and Asset Management
Crown Lands