

PM's Rehab Call

'Return Planning to Ryde Council'

Prime Minister John Howard as Member for Bennelong has called upon State Planning Minister Frank Sartor to return planning powers for the Royal Rehabilitation Centre redevelopment back to Ryde City Council.

He made a symbolic visit to the centre site on Saturday to publicly show his concern and meet executive members of the protesting Coalition Against Private Overdevelopment (CAPO) organisation.

CAPO members have strenuously fought the Centre's proposed "overdevelopment" of the property and have held large protest meetings and marches against the size of the proposed development without success to date from the State Government.

Mr Howard has backed his support with an Open Letter to Frank Sartor this week published as a full page paid advertisement in The Weekly Times.



Prime Minister John Howard at Ryde's Royal Rehabilitation Centre on Saturday with Lane Cove MP Anthony Roberts, left, CAPO chairman Rolf Clapham, right, with Susan MacGregor, Rona Agnew, Eleanor Shaine and children Sachi Clapham, Lilly McDougal and Dylan Clapham. TWT on-the-spot PHOTO.

To: **Frank Sartor, Minister for Planning**
Subject: **Proposed development of the Royal Rehabilitation Centre**



JOHN HOWARD MP
MEMBER FOR BENNELONG
PRIME MINISTER

Dear Mr Sartor,

I write to voice the concern of many residents of Bennelong to the proposed development of the Royal Rehabilitation Centre, Sydney site at Ryde.

The plan you approved in March 2006 will see the development of up to 800 dwellings on just sixteen hectares of residual land on the site.

Although this matter falls within the responsibility of your government, I continue to receive telephone calls and letters from concerned local residents about this issue.

They're worried about the impact of the proposed development on traffic flows in the area and on local amenities.

Ryde City Council has urged you to channel ingress and egress traffic onto Victoria Road, not Charles Street or Morrison Road. Traffic flows on Morrison Road are already 300 per cent above your Road and Traffic Authority's own guidelines.

The long term future of community services such as Weemala and Riding for the Disabled, of which I'm the proud patron, is also under threat.

Residents believe that elected representatives on Ryde City Council should have planning authority over the proposed development returned.

The Member for Lane Cove, Anthony Roberts has raised this important local issue with you many times. Curiously, the Member for Ryde, John Warkins and Labor Councillors remain largely silent.

Minister, I urge you to return your planning powers over the development to Ryde City Council, which has the long-term interests of the residents of Ryde in mind.

John Howard

Minister, return your planning powers over the Royal Rehabilitation Centre development to Ryde City Council.