

EUROBODALLA SHIRE COUNCIL

PUBLIC FORUM

Ordinary Meeting of Council on 20 August 2024

Please refer to the minutes of the [Council Meeting](#) for outcomes of the agenda items.

Name	Subject/Comments	Presentation Provided	Hybrid
Kathryn Maxwell	NOM24/005 Eurobodalla Shire Council acknowledges the Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023 and our obligations in regard to emissions reductions to achieve the targets set out in the Act	No	In person
Lou Dampney	NOM24/006 Eurobodalla Hospital Advocacy	No	In person
Peter Cormick	NOM24/006 Eurobodalla Hospital Advocacy	Yes	In person
Mylene Boulting	NOM24/006 Eurobodalla Hospital Advocacy	No	In person

PUBLIC FORUM 20 August 2024 – Peter Cormick

Item NOM24/006 Eurobodalla Hospital Advocacy

Brief notes preliminary to my verbal presentation.

The importance of the subject matter could not be clearer. It concerns the saving of lives of those within our community.

Addressing the two proposed motions in turn:

That Council seeks clarification on the proposed local radiotherapy service (LRS) for the L4 Eurobodalla Hospital

There is an urgent need for clarification of the proposed LRS because there is no mention or indication of the proposed LRS anywhere that I can see in the Department of Planning's Major Projects documentation, despite verbal assurance by the CE of SNSWLHD that a space will be set aside for a LRS bunker into the future. And there is also an urgent need for clarification of the costs of an LRS. The urgency exists because construction has commenced and, hopefully, there remains the chance for amendments to the plans, and construction, and thus avoid the vastly greater costs of retrofitting a bunker into the hospital precinct at a later date. My own (quite thorough) research has produced a total cost of a bunker and linear accelerator (LINAC) at a maximum of \$15 million. The publicly declared figure is \$100 million, is almost a third of the total cost of the hospital! According to figures within the [minutes of the 22/08/23 meeting of the SNSWLHD Board](#), in dismissing a Commonwealth \$8 million dollar offer as "inadequate", an estimate of \$30 million for a LRS was given, without any supporting information. \$30 million has become \$100 million in a matter of a year! Discussion of an LRS at this meeting revolved around a Report presented by [Professor Mick Reid](#), who attended the meeting, following his "review of the feasibility into establishing a radiation therapy service within the new Eurobodalla Regional Hospital (ERH)". "The review found that the service can be provided in a safe manner, and is a needed service. The population justifies the provision of a single Linac". I will give further details at my verbal presentation.

That Council joins the community in supporting the inclusion and prioritisation of local radiotherapy services.

It is essential that Council advocates on behalf of the community it represents. The reality is that, unfortunately and disappointingly, the advocacy by individuals within the community, which has been exceptional, over quite some years, in the end carries very little if any weight. It is past the time that Council stepped in; but it is still not too late for Council's intervention.