



Media Release

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COASTAL DEVELOPMENT UNSUSTAINABLE

“CSIRO predictions that petrol could reach \$8 per litre within ten years highlights the unsustainable nature of the proposed Rose Property Group development at Catherine Hill Bay,” said Trust Acting Executive Director, Steven White today.

The National Trust believes that the Concept Plan for this development is about to be approved.

Only a few years ago, the site was listed by the Planning Department in Newcastle as the second last of 89 possible sites for residential development due to its isolated location, well away from retail centres and public transport.

The CSIRO report *Fuel for Thought* indicates that “peak oil” (when oil production hits its maximum annual rate, then starts to decline and is no longer able to match demand” may occur within five years. In this event, within ten years petrol could hit \$8 a litre and travel may consequently be cut by 40%.

“Developing such isolated areas should be a concept totally rejected, not encouraged by our planning authorities with access totally dependent on private motor vehicles. Buying into such a development in the light of a predicted five-fold increase in fuel costs could be a very risky investment,” said Mr White.

“The National Trust attended last year’s progress revision of the New South Wales State Plan. There was no mention of impending “peak oil” or its consequences.”

“Approving a concept plan, at this point in time, for a massive residential development in an isolated location such as Catherine Hill Bay is ill advised and unsustainable in the long term,” said Mr White.

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