

## **RANDWICK LIBERALS MEDIA RELEASE – 29.1.12**

### **FUTURE OF MALABAR POLICE STATION NOW IN SEVERE DOUBT**

Despite losing government almost a year ago, the incompetence of the ALP continues to haunt residents of Randwick's South Ward following a recent decision of the Land and Environment Court involving the Malabar Police Station.

Following a hearing on 3 and 4 March 2011, in the dying days of the NSW ALP Government, the Court ruled last Friday that the NSW Minister for Lands must transfer the land on which is erected the Malabar Police Station to the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council within 2 months.

Member for Coogee and Randwick Councillor, Cr Bruce Notley-Smith MP, a vocal critic of the former government's decision to close Malabar Police Station back on 30 June 2009, said:

“The former Minister for Police and Member for Maroubra, Michael Daley MP, has a lot to answer for. He failed to stop the station closing in 2009 and the Court's judgment is a stinging critique of Mr Daley's actions as the former Police Minister.

“The Court has ruled that because the former Labor Government left the building vacant in June 2009, the Land Council is entitled to claim ownership. If Michael Daley had taken my advice and kept Malabar Police Station open, the Land Council could not have claimed ownership.

“This is another classic case of Labor incompetence, and the Liberals have to clean up the mess they left. Now there's no Police Station, and the NSW Government will lose ownership and control of the land within 2 months.”

Randwick South Ward Councillor, Robert Belleli, also said of the decision:

“This is a significant blow to policing in the local area. With the local community, I've fought for years to keep Malabar Police Station open. The residents of South Ward are right to feel cranky and cheated by Michael Daley and his Labor mates.”

Randwick Mayor, Cr Scott Nash, said he has reviewed the Court's judgment, following comments by Mr Daley that an appeal should be lodged:

“I've reviewed the Court's judgment. An appeal is only available on a question of law. Since the Court found, as a matter of fact, that the land was not being used as a Police Station when the claim for ownership was made, the prospects of a successful appeal appear to me to be very low.”

As the land will be transferred to the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council within 2 months, it will be entirely a matter for the land council to decide the future of the land.

ENDS

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