

Invite from O'Farrell

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KU-RING-GAI MP Barry O'Farrell has urged Planning Minister Frank Sartor to visit the Wahroonga site of a proposed controversial high-rise development.

The development application has been lodged with Ku-ring-gai Council under a flawed State planning instrument, Mr O'Farrell said.

"I've suggested Mr Sartor let me take him around the site or, if his time is limited, he simply drive past on his way to or from Newcastle or the Central Coast," Mr O'Farrell said.

"I am confident even the briefest of visits to Water or Young Streets would confirm to him the inappropriateness of this development.

"I don't believe high rise developments of this type have any place deep in a residential area, whether in Wahroonga or any other suburb of Sydney."

Mr O'Farrell said SEPP Seniors Living, the State planning instrument under which the proposal

had been made, was meant to be an improvement on SEPP5.

While it envisaged so-called "vertical villages", it required them in higher density locations, he said.

"The area around the old John Williams Centre site at Wahroonga is as low density as you will find across Sydney," Mr O'Farrell said.

"Residents understand the impact this development would have - that is why I am keen for Mr Sartor to get a first-hand look at the site and its environs."

A spokesperson for Mr Sartor said the Minister had declined to intervene in this project before and he saw no reason to change his mind.

"Mr O'Farrell seems to be confused - does he want the Minister to take over a development from Ku-ring-gai Council?" the spokesperson said.

"Is this another example of the Opposition asking the Government to call in proposals that are uncomfortable or unpopular in their electorates?"

"Our initial advice suggests that clause of the Seniors Living SEPP does not apply so Mr O'Farrell has been ill advised."