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Barry O’Farrell

An artist’s impression of the proposed entry to historic Rippon Grange in Water St, Wahroonga.

O’Farrell challenges Sartor

DANIELLE LONG

KU-RING-GAI State Liberal MP Barry O’Farrell has called on Planning Minister Frank Sartor to visit the site of a proposed high-rise retirement village to be built in Water St, Wahroonga.

The DA was lodged by Waterbrook Lifestyle Resorts with Ku-ring-gai Council on August 4 to build 78 units in eight buildings up

to six storeys high on the site under SEPP Seniors Living.

The 22,932sq m block, bought by Waterbrook in June last year from the State Government, includes the historic federation home Rippon Grange, which has been assessed by the National Trust as being of state heritage significance.

Mr O’Farrell, who opposes the proposal, wrote to Mr Sartor last

week urging him to personally inspect the site.

“I’ve suggested Mr Sartor either let me take him around the site or, if his time is limited, 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 would confirm to him the inappropriateness of this development.”

“I don’t believe high-rises of this type have any place deep in a residential area – whether in Wahroonga or any other suburb in Sydney.”

Waterbrook managing director Kevin Ryan said they had gone “to great lengths” to work with the community.

A spokeswoman for Mr Sartor said he had declined to intervene in the proposal and had “no reason” to change his position.