

## **Response to St George and Sutherland Shire Leader regarding Sharks proposal**

*Response given on June 29 in response to questions about Departmental project delivery unit director Matthew Daniel's role in the Sharks proposal*

It should be noted that the final decision on whether the proposal should be approved or not will be made by the independent Planning Assessment Commission (PAC). No decision has yet been made. No Department of Planning and Infrastructure staff have any role in the PAC's determination process.

Mr Daniel has NO role in assessing the Sharks development proposal.

In his capacity as Director of the Department's Project Delivery Unit, Mr Daniel was responsible for establishing the Project Control Group (PCG) for the proposal, which includes representatives from Sutherland Shire Council, but with no function in the actual merit assessment process. However, with the PCG now established, and in keeping with common practice, the Department's ongoing representation on the PCG has now passed to one of Mr Daniel's staff.

The PCG was established to ensure the Department's processing of the proposal is undertaken in an inclusive, transparent and timely manner.

The Department has already had a number of meetings with Council on the proposal and will continue to do so throughout the assessment process to ensure the views of the local community are incorporated and thoroughly considered.

To this end, should the proposal progress to the point of public exhibition, the Department will also be doubling the usual length of the exhibition period to 60 days to ensure all interested parties have the opportunity to have their say.

All submissions received will also be made publicly available and the proponent will be required to respond to all issues raised.

The Department stands by the rigour and independence of all its assessments which are based solely on the merits of the proposal. The Sharks proposal is no exception.