

Wednesday 20 June 2012

**Letter to the Editor of the *Illawarra Mercury***

The department rejects the *Mercury's* suggestion that it was preparing to approve a "deficient proposal" for the Wollongong Hospital ('Hospital parking close call', *Illawarra Mercury* – 18/6/12) prior to an announcement by the Health Minister pledging funding for a new 600-space parking station.

The department's assessment report (publicly available on the department's website) deals with the issue of parking in detail and clearly indicates that this additional parking capacity was an important factor in reaching its conclusion that the hospital would be appropriately serviced.

To suggest that the department would have approved a project that was deficient in meeting the needs of the local community is disappointing and does not reflect the department's position on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

**RICHARD PEARSON**  
**Deputy Director-General**  
**NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure**