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## Introduction:

I am Valentine Wright, Auntie Val, from Wong Beach. I am a rate-payer, a long-time resident (My mob were ~~cutti~~ working in the timber mills here before I was born) and speak here today on behalf of the 18,000+ people who signed our petition to save the B.B. emergency dpt. I am a Wiradjuri Woman with strong family and cultural ties to this Walbundja place.

Body: I know that the official line ~~is~~ is that "you're wasting your time. The whole hospital is shutting down. The new hospital will support the whole B.B. population"

and I know that the duties of Local councils are about infrastructure, and that the decisions regarding the BB. Hospital shutdown were made by N.S.W. Health, not by council. HOWEVER ... the people who will be most affected by the current proposal, and as I have said, there are in excess of 18,000 of them, have expressed disbelief, anger, worry and have asked for answers to the following questions



## 2.2 Community Questions.

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- (i) Has council already expedited development approvals for additional short and medium term accommodation for when the new hospital opens? And what about homes for staff? Moruya is very limited, and it takes "forever" to "get stuff passed by council"? (2 small motels / 3 hotels.)
- (ii) What about the by-pass that will be needed? Can council get up-to-date information out to us --- a lot of us can't use facebook?
- (iii) What's happening about ambulances? What about the very limited public transport from Durras, from Nelligen, from Long Beach, from Surfside? A lot of us elderly don't drive at night, or at all?
- (iiii) What about when we can't get through to Moruya during peak tourist, flood, fire? The time it takes to get picked up and transported way exceeds 30 Mins. People will die!



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Mat has told me that all the information was made available To everyone.

BUT most people who spoke to our little committee said they knew about the new hospital, but no-one told them that there would be no emergency service available and that the B.B. hospital was going to close down! <sup>The hospital in the most densely populated area in the ship</sup> The community outcry isn't about having a great new hospital at Moruya — its about having a critical peice of infrastructure taken away <sup>from B.B.</sup> For the residents, ratepayers --- the elderly, the young, accident victims, the chronically ill, the wave of tourist visitors that support our region — The B.B Hospital provides an essential service, A frequently lifesaving first stop 24/7!

The discussion paper that will be presented to NSW Parliament presents the following grounds for re-assessing the current decision

~~\*~~ Read DISCUSSION in full.



4 / to keep BB Hospital open.

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The request is not only reasonable, it is supported by examples of other comparable population centres' access to 24/7 emergency care

~~\*~~ Read Examples out in full.

Conclusion:

This address to council is not meant to be a challenge. It's meant to simply let council know what the Community of Bateman's Bay and our "Northern outposts" hope to achieve: And to ask Council to answer the questions about the ramifications to our community if our 24/7 hospital service is closed down??

Best outcome: A level two, maintained hospital at Current BB site and a new level 4 hospital at Moruya, and a by-pass to get to the latter!