

Rob Stokes

Pittwater MP



7 February 2019

Mr Gavin Butler & Mrs Marita Macrae OAM
PO Box 1180
NEWPORT NSW 2106

Dear Mr Butler and Mrs Macrae,

Gavin & Marita,

Thank you for your letter in relation to the environmentally sensitive land at 62 and 85 Hillside Road, Newport. I share your interest in this unique area and I have read your comments with interest.

Late last year I made representations to the Minister for Planning, the Hon. Anthony Roberts MP, to advise him of Northern Beaches Council's interest in acquiring the land and incorporating it into the adjacent Council managed reserves. I also sought the Minister's assistance in facilitating direct discussion on this issue between the Department of Planning and Northern Beaches Council.

The NSW Government has announced a \$100 million Strategic Open Spaces Program to secure new and enhanced parkland areas throughout Sydney. I understand the guidelines for his program are currently being finalised – however it could present a viable opportunity for Council to explore.

As you would be aware, however, the subject area at Hillside Road is privately owned and has long been zoned for residential purposes under the Pittwater LEP. Furthermore, a development approval for residential subdivision was issued in early 2018. I have been advised that these characteristics may pose challenges for any proposed acquisition.

Notwithstanding the property characteristics, I would be pleased to support any acquisition proposals that have concurrence of all parties involved. I would also be pleased to work with Council on potential funding or co-funding opportunities that may be suitable.

Thank you again for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Rob Stokes

*I strongly support your aspiration,
I will do everything I can to
assist.*

ROB STOKES MP
MEMBER FOR PITTWATER

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