



Peter O'Neill
Marketing and Media Manager
Illawarra Folk Festival
PO Box 5289
Wollongong
Australia, 2500

Mobile: 0429 674 005

marketingmedia@illawarrafolkfestival.com.au
www.illawarrafolkfestival.com.au

Dear Peter

Subject: **PROPOSAL FOR A MAJOR ILLAWARRA FESTIVAL/EVENT SITE 2011**

Thank you for your 2 emails on the Illawarra Folk Festival.

I assume one was sent as the Mayor candidate and the second as lead candidate for Ward 1.

I share your concerns *"for major events/festivals...there is no large site in the Illawarra that has existing infrastructure suitable for major commercial or community festivals or events"*.

Living at Helensburgh, the northern entrance to the Council precinct and moreover Illawarra, tourism is one of the greatest future assets for the community and Wollongong. I will continue to support and promote any tourism and indeed recreational activity on the Grand Pacific Drive for the multiplier effect to all businesses in the region. I particularly commend 2 local businesses that are at forefront in promoting our region, Symbio Wildlife Park and Just Cruisin' Motorcycle Tours, no different to the excellent event staged by the Illawarra Folk Festival.

The concept of a new venue for the Illawarra Fold Festival is not new to me. Through the Northern Illawarra Chamber of Commerce which I am also a member, I was approached to enquire if I could resource a number of neighbouring rural properties to combine for the new site that you so desperately deserve. The simple reason was to bring tourism to Helensburgh, the local 2508 and of course the Illawarra.

So I believe I am ahead of the game on the issue and you have my support.

However, the role of Mayor is defined in very limited terms – chair meetings, represent at ceremonial functions, executive decision making between council meetings. The 12 elected councillors (or "executive" or "Board of Directors" as I would refer are the true policy making arm of the Council) vote on all proposals, and then Mayor has a casting vote in the event of a tied vote.

Your summary to support the Illawarra is an excellent vision how any future Mayor and indeed Wollongong should embrace to *“attract the support of state and federal governments, individual promoters, as well as community groups interested in using the facilities. This proposal would be a long term development and a business case would need to be written to demonstrate the feasibility of such a site. To obtain the funding to build the infrastructure, any proposal would need the support of local businesses, the community and Wollongong Council, including Tourism Wollongong.”*

Yes, as you have suggested, I would fully support Illawarra Folk Festival, if elected to Mayor or Councillor, to *“support the proposal for the development of a major festival/event site in the Illawarra and encourage the Council to set up a committee of interested groups and organisations that will coordinate the activities to locate and fund a suitable site”* with the majority approval of other Councillors.

I wish you continued success with the Illawarra Folk Festival.

Warmest regards

Greg Petty
130 Walker Street (PO Box 92) Helensburgh NSW 2508 Australia
Proud member
Phone: (0407) 473 889
Website: www.gregpetty.com.au

Independent Candidate Lord Mayor
Greg Petty Independent Team
Facsimile: (02) 4271 3009
Email: greg@gregpetty.com.au