

Confidentiality Requested: yes

Submitted by a Planner: no

Disclosable Political Donation:

Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Content:

I object to the removal of local council's authority to approve the location of new centre-based child care (CBCC) in light industrial and residential areas and allowing new centres quicker approval. Coffs Harbour area has, in the last 18 months, gone from an under-supply of CBCC to an over-supply resulting in no CBCC being anywhere near capacity. Licences are now issued without consideration to demographics, population growth forecasts, current occupancy rates (which was the methodology in the past). Average occupancy rates have gone from 95% in 2015 to 77% in 2016 and much lower to date in 2017. Information received show occupancy rates ranging from 20 - 87 %, most appear to be 50-60%. 6 new centres have opened in the last 12-18 months with another one to open, seeing an increase of over 400 places. Most new centres are owned by larger groups and licensing is therefore easier to obtain. Larger centres may be carried by other more profitable centres in the group forcing out smaller privately owned centres. Although Coffs Harbour council has allowed a new centre to built next door to an existing centre they still need to be able to take objections in regard to the location future applications. There needs to be some control as to the number of new CBCC opening and their location. Removing barriers will only allow the creation of another "ABC" which the government vowed would not happen but is being allowed. The over-supply of CBCC is apparently a national problem in regional Australia, not only NSW. It has already resulted in unemployment in the sector with reduced staff numbers and hours. Control needs to be taken from the outset of the application particularly to protect existing smaller privately owned CBCC who provide a personal caring environment for children. Control needs to remain local as they have the local knowledge and what is required in their area.

IP Address: - [REDACTED]

Submission: Online Submission from [REDACTED] (comments)

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