

Storm gathers over project

By LAURA NELSON

ORGANISERS of a public meeting opposing a Coombabah affordable housing project are expecting a huge roll-up at a public rally on Sunday.

The community protest has been called by federal Fadden MP Stuart Robert, who said he had been inundated with calls and visits from locals vehemently opposed to the project.

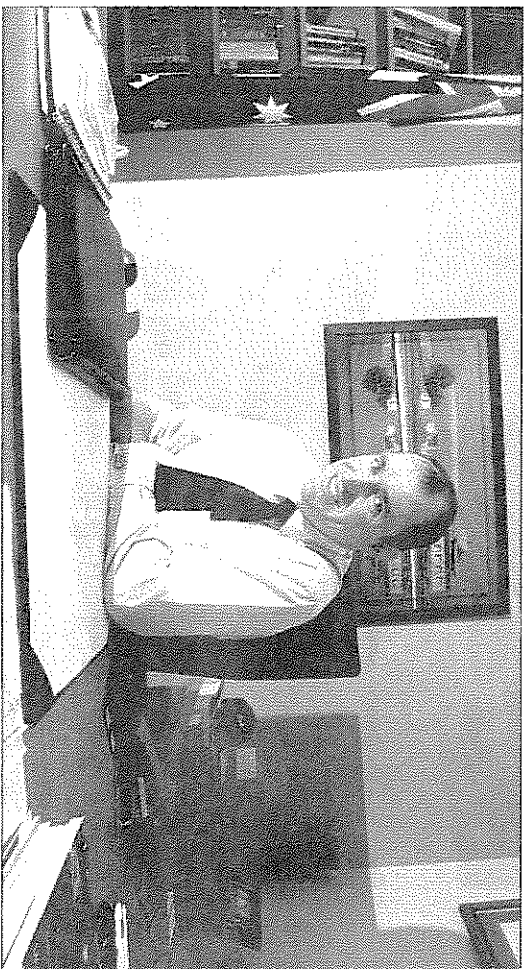
Mr Robert said he had invited residents from 4420 homes in the area to attend the meeting at 2pm at the Hammond Village recreational hall.

If approved, the project will be built through the National Rental Affordability Scheme.

Mr Robert has sent a petition to home owners calling on the Government to release the project's funding application for public comment.

"Our petition is also calling for an amendment to legislation so an NRAS application for federal funding may not be considered if it goes against the current town plan," he said.

The protest meeting will be held together with the Paradise Point and Northern Districts Progress Association, which is against the development application for 135 units to be built on



RALLYING CRY
... Member for Fadden, Stuart Robert MP, has called a public meeting for those opposed to the affordable housing project planned for Coombabah.

a 1.5ha site near the intersection of Hansford Road and Oxley Drive.

The project has also been opposed by Coombabah Neighbourhood Watch, residents from Runaway Royale and Hammond Village in Hansford Road as well as Biggers Waters locals.

"I realise the approval for the project is a matter for the Gold Coast City Council, but the development is being funded through the NRAS and this

issue is so serious I can't ignore it," said Mr Robert.

"If this development is not what the local Coombabah community wants, and the application doesn't fit with the local town plan, then I would argue this is not what the NRAS initiative is all about."

He said residents who had approached him were worried about the impact of the project on Coombabah.

"This is a legitimate concern when one considers the site is only zoned for 60 units, which are a maximum of two storeys, and this application is proposing 135 units in a maximum of three storeys," he said.

The MP also called on Minister of Housing Tanya Plibersek to 'take a look at what is happening in Coombabah'. Copies of the petition can be downloaded from www.stuartrobert.com.au.

Tall storeys are too high

COOMBABAH residents say an affordable housing development in Hansford Road will have a negative effect on adjacent properties and the neighbourhood.

Spokesman Colin Mline said locals were opposed to the project because developers were proposing to build three storeys, which was not consistent with existing residential dwellings at Coombabah which were one and two storey buildings.

"The maximum accommodation density for the area is one dwelling per 250sq m and the proposed development represents one dwelling per 112sq m, which is more than double the allowed density," he said.