

MEDIA RELEASE

COUNCIL WILL PUT PRESSURE ON PREMIER REES

December 12, 2008

Council will seek an urgent deputation with NSW Premier Nathan Rees regarding the Eastern Creek Motorsport Precinct.

The passage in the NSW Parliament of the Motor Racing Act 2008 and the support of the Premier for Homebush Bay to host the grand finale of V8 Supercar Championship for the next five years and contributing \$30.m to stage the race will affect the future viability of the Eastern Creek Motorsport Precinct.

Liberal Councillor Jess Diaz spoke of the great urgency for the new Mayor to meet the Premier to express the disappointment of the people of Blacktown on this development. He said that former Mayor Leo Kelly called the Premier's action a "slap on the face of Blacktown". Councillor Diaz said, "it is difficult to understand how Homebush Bay was preferred against Eastern Creek in spite of strong oppositions from many stakeholders including motorsport bodies, environmentalists and residents, and even the former planning Minister Frank Sartor. This was carried out to a Labor heartland, with Labor local council and including the Premier all Labor MPs representing the City of Blacktown."

Independent Councillor Russ Dickens, responding to Councillor Alan Pendleton that there is nothing that can be done now as it has been fait accompli, said, "we should not take a defeatist attitude but should pursue this with greater vigor."

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