To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales in Parliament Assembled.

This petition of citizens of the ***Illawarra Region*** of NSW brings to the attention of the House the current NSW Coalition Government's proposal for the new Shellharbour hospital to be fully operated by a private provider.

As citizens we are concerned about previous failures when vital services were privatised in our health system. This experience is not isolated to NSW, but across the country and internationally. In the past where privatisations have failed, governments have had to step in and spend considerable amounts of taxpayers' money to ensure these essential services continue to be provided to the community. A recent example of this was the Port Macquarie hospital, which had to be bought back and was "subsequently paid for twice and then given away", according to the Auditor General of the day.

We are also aware of the NSW Coalition Government's recent cancellation of the contract with a private operator at the Royal North Shore hospital because of the risk to patient care.

As citizens of the ***Illawarra Region*** of NSW we are calling on the NSW Coalition Government to ensure that our hospitals are publicly operated and kept in public hands.

Name	Signature	Address	Postcode

Authorised by Mark Morey, Secretary, Unions NSW, Level 3 Trades Hall, 4-10 Goulburn Street, Sydney 2000
Please mail original signed petition to the address above.