

## **Call To Retain Tom Flood Centre**

Country Alliance has criticised the proposal to allow the Tom Flood Centre to be used for a new hospital site.

Fred Goodwin, who stood for the Alliance at the 2006 State Election, says the proposal to use Bendigo's main cycling and sporting facility to expand the hospital is treating residents with contempt.

"There is no doubt the city needs a major health facility to service the Bendigo region as the current hospital is under pressure to expand and improve services," he said.

"However the Tom Flood Centre is the wrong option."

Mr Goodwin said one of the key issues is the lack of parking required for nearby facilities such as the Bendigo Base Hospital, the Anne Caudle Centre, radiology services, Doctors surgeries, Pathology services plus Eye and Ear Clinic services.

"Removing the centre would be similar to the Epsom debacle where a multi sporting facility was turned into a supermarket. The Epsom community still lacks the access it needs to a soccer field, tennis courts, netball courts, cycling and football grounds."

"Bendigo Healthcare should investigate options that will not interfere with community facilities. It should look at land that gives opportunity for future growth, adequate parking and ease of access."

Mr Goodwin said one option was for Bendigo Health to use a site it currently owns in North Bendigo.

He called on local MPs, Bob Cameron and Jacinta Allan, to 'put a lid' on the proposal.

For comment: Fred Goodwin 0439 432 240

Website: [www.countryalliance.org](http://www.countryalliance.org)

Admin: [admin@countryalliance.org](mailto:admin@countryalliance.org) / ph 0425 746 066