The proposed Woy Woy Hospital Committee is faced with its biggest problem since its inception in 1959.

On Thursday night, Mr. Ted Humphries, MLA, told a public meeting that Woy Woy would not get a public hospital in the foreseeable future.

Mr. Humphries said it was the view of the Department of Health and the Hospitals Commission that Gosford Hospital be brought up to a proper base hospital "before proceeding any further in the area".

"A nursing home would be the best possible alternative to be built on the 12 acres of land owned by the proposed Woy Woy Hospital Committee," he revealed.

Mr. Humphries said the matter should be treated as "urgent".

"We will have to get this proposal off the ground. "The nursing home would be for aged people who can treat themselves." Mr. Humphries was the prime mover of the motion that the proposed hospital committee discuss the idea at its next meeting.

He pointed out that a 20-30 bed nursing home could form part of an eventual hospital at Woy Woy.

However, he added that he would support any move made by the committee "whether it be for a nursing home or a hospital." Mr. Humphries said that it was up to the community to look after its elderly citizens and "it should be found to run such a nursing home to keep the costs within reason."

He estimated that the £400,000 that was needed to assist with the fund raising for such a scheme. "I believe that this is the problem," he remarked, "and your committee could not do it alone." He expressed confidence in the fact that if the proposed hospital committee did pass such a move, Government support would be forthcoming within a reasonable time.

Mr. Humphries said that the State Government faced with tremendous problems, especially with regard to the State-wide drought.

"Something must suffer in the light of this. The drought-tar­geted alone will cost the Government probably £200,000."

Mr. Humphries received praise from many people at the meeting for his concise report.

However, it is expected that the proposed Woy Woy Hospital Committee will reject any move for a nursing home.

"It would be in the too distant future for Woy Woy to have a hospital," he added.

"I don't think that there is anywhere else in N.S.W. with a population of the same as this district that has so far under­hospitalised."

He referred to former suggestions that a "cottage hos­pital" be built at Woy Woy and the Entrance, with Gosford Hospital as the base dealing with post-operative care.

"At present, the position is laughable," Mr. Waugh stated.

"We have received a long list of promises about a hospital but Woy Woy has not been given the same treatment in relation to the construction of this hospital."

He intimated that Woy Woy had received a long list of promises about a hospital.

Mr. Waugh also asked that the letter contain the question when the Woy Woy area could expect a hospital.

One of the foundation members of the hospital commit­tee, Mr. Perc Cornish, said that he was terribly disap­pointed.

He added that it would be better for Woy Woy "up to 15 years to have a hospital built."

"We referred to the £24 million hospital at Belmont, stat­ing that the people of that area preferred to wait," he said, "with outstanding results."

Mr. Cornish said that the present site of the proposed hospital at Woy Woy was selected 11 years ago by the Chamber of Commerce.

He revealed that a deputa­tion to the Hospitals Commit­tee at that stage was told by the Woy Woy Hospital Commit­tee that a move for a nursing home would not be possible for at least five years."

"We were told that the Gosford Hospitals Commission would move for Woy Woy to have a 100-bed hospital and Wyong and Tuggerah Lakes 50-bed hospitals."

"We should wait; it is better to see a hospital at Woy Woy than for one or four wards of a nursing home built on the 12-acre site."

Secretaries of the Gosford Hospital, Mr. Neville Boyce, conveyed the best wishes of the hospital's board.

He explained the compli­cations surrounding the move for a hospital and the cost of £1,300,000.

An additional £100,000 would be necessary to provide a hospital for 100-bed hospital.

"We have received a number of promises about a hospital and the hospital committee did pass the sale of the home to the committee with the hospital's board.

Mr. Humphries received a letter from Mr. Waugh, president of the Lions Club, Mr. Tom Waugh, one of the trustees of the hospital committee, praised the Lions Club for its support and the best wishes of the Lions Club for Woy Woy.

Mr. Waugh revealed that it was intended to bring Gosford Hospital to the area.

He said that the 65-bed ex­tension would cost approximately £200,000 per bed, bringing the total cost in the vicinity of $1,300,000. An additional $100,000 would be necessary to provide a hospital for 100-bed hospital.

He added that the £1,300,000 was to be used for the care of elderly citizens and "it is better to have a lost of 50-bed hospital as it would nurses' quarters."

Mr. Waugh said that it would be possible to have a hospital at Woy Woy.

"I would like to add that it is better to have a lost of 50-bed hospital as it would nurses' quarters."

Mr. Waugh said that the hospital committee had made a move for a hospital at Woy Woy, "the best wishes of the people of Woy Woy."