

16th September 2020

Robbie Treharne
Manly Boatshed

Dear Robbie

Letter of Support – Manly Boatshed Development Application

Paddle Australia writes as the National Sports Organisation (NSO) for paddling in Australia, recognised by the Australian Sports Commission, in support of the proposed redevelopment of the Manly Boatshed. This letter is co-authored and signed by Paddle NSW, the governing body for paddle sports in New South Wales. We are happy for you to provide a copy of this letter to Northern Beaches Council or any other authority that may be considering your application.

Whilst Paddle Australia does would not normally provide letters of support for local projects, the proposed development is significant as a blueprint for future developments around the country. The proposal represents the type of community facility which, we consider, represents a new approach to the storage of paddle craft.

Strategically, the development of new storage facilities for paddling is a key priority for Paddle Australia and paddling more broadly. This is articulated in the [Strategic Plan for Paddling in Australia](#) (SPPA) at strategy 1.5, which recognises that one of the major barriers to participation in paddling is access: people are simply unable to find safe water entry combined with boat storage opportunities.

This matches the current situation within Northern Beaches Council where, we understand, there is a significant wait list for access to Council dry storage facilities. Particularly in and around capital cities, where housing costs and traffic volumes are high, finding innovative ways to allow people to store craft near where they paddle will be important in planning for the future.

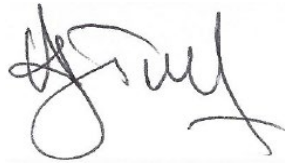
The health benefits – both physical and mental – of paddling are undisputed. In recent months we have seen even more people interested in getting out on the water, given social distancing requirements and reduced access to other forms of sport and recreation. Since the arrival of COVID-19, paddling has provided exercise and some emotional respite to many in the community, some of whom have been going through particularly tough times. While we do not know how long the current situation will last, a sport and recreational activity which can be responsibly conducted in a socially distant manner will likely continue to be a preferred option for many.

Paddle Australia considers it is incumbent on Councils to assist in meeting the health and wellbeing needs of their communities. It is not necessarily feasible for Councils to provide all the facilities themselves, so the provision of these by the private sector should be welcomed where such developments can be carried out responsibly. We are aware of some Sydney Councils actively discouraging the use of beaches for the storage and/or launching of paddle craft, so initiatives like the Manly Boatshed are a step forward in trying to find solutions to the under supply of boat storage. This current proposal will add around 40 additional spaces for kayaks and similar craft.

Finally, the multi-sport approach of this proposal also aligns strongly with the strategies listed in the SPPA. Strategy 5.6 speaks to the need for paddling to engage with not only other sports but also commercial operators. In this instance the proposal will allow paddle sports to live alongside both the sailing/boating community as well as commercial operators who can utilise the premises to get more people on the water. The Manly Boatshed is not proposed to be an exclusive club which only allows access to certain groups, rather it will be a benefit to the broader community, including paddlers. Both Paddle Australia and Paddle NSW support its proposed expansion.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should any further information be required, at duncan.tweed@paddle.org.au or on (02) 9763 0670. We see a key role of our organisations as being working with authorities to improve boat storage options so we would be happy to discuss this matter further if that is helpful.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Duncan Tweed".

Duncan Tweed
Chief Operating Officer
Paddle Australia

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Tate".

Peter Tate
Chief Executive Officer
Paddle NSW



***Every.
Second.
Counts.***

www.heart180.com.au

ABN 25 631 168 904

16/09/20

To whom it may concern

Re: Manly Boatshed DA2020/0514

I write regarding the proposal to increase the number of kayak storage spaces at Manly Boatshed and the question of increased parking requirements.

I have enjoyed many years of involvement with the kayaking community in Manly and confirm that the value to physical and mental health of this sport is enormous.

I am very concerned about the urgent need for an increase in waterfront kayak storage on the Sydney Harbour foreshores of the Northern Beaches.

This has been exacerbated by the following recent events:

More than 30 craft were being stored at Manly Cove, near the aquarium for several years until they were recently evicted by the new tenants.

There is a waiting list of 100 kayakers for the storage racks at Little Manly. Northern Beaches Council has closed down the waitlist because the expected wait time for a space has blown out to 5-10 years. This is the only storage available to kayakers south of Narrabeen, other than Manly Boatshed.

The proprietors at Manly Boatshed tell me there is no more storage space available there. It has been full for a year and the proprietors have turned back more than 40 kayakers seeking storage already this year.

Kayaking is the highest growing sport in Australia and since Covid-19, mountain bike & kayak sales have exploded. Nothing has been done to address the urgent need for storage for kayaks for people living in medium-high density areas of the Northern Beaches. As a result, a large number of kayakers store their kayaks on the roofs of their cars and need to park their cars along the waterfront, in order to use their craft.

I understand there is a question regarding an increase in parking required for an increase in kayak storage numbers. It is vital to consider that if storage is not supplied, then there will be an increase in traffic numbers to waterfront streets of Bolingbroke Pde, Fairlight Crescent and into Manly as more and more kayakers are forced to store their craft on top of their cars.



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The overwhelming majority of kayak users who stored their kayaks at Manly Cove travelled to their craft either on foot or bike. This is part of their warm-up; they had no need to come by car because they did not need to transport their craft.

However, you will note every morning that there is now a long line of cars with kayaks on their roofs along the foreshore at Manly Cove.

There is a major **benefit** to our community in providing more kayak storage at Manly Boatshed. From my experience, I am sure the large majority of Kayakers will walk or ride to the boatshed. I know of at least a dozen who would walk or ride to Manly Boatshed if they could store their kayaks there.

I believe that there will be fewer cars accessing Bolingbroke Pde and Fairlight Crescent if more kayak storage is provided.

Manly Boatshed is situated in a much more protected bay than Manly Cove and Little Manly and is therefore a much safer venue for young families to enjoy the sport together in all weather conditions.

As a community, we need to make it as easy as possible for people to make the daily choice to get out and exercise and use the kayaks they have already purchased. If they don't have to carry their kayaks from their cars and then put them back on their cars at the end of each session, they are certain to use their craft more often.

If you would like to discuss further, please feel free to contact me directly on 0414 352 352.

Yours sincerely,

Guy Leech

sydney harbour
S U R F C L U B

594 New South Head Rd, Rose Bay

ABN: 53 627 506 647

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in regard to the expansion of the Kayak storage at Manly Boatshed. Sydney Harbour Surf Club is located on Rose Bay Marina and is a surf ski paddling business offering local residents the opportunity to get their exercise out on the water and to improve mental well-being. Our service has been extremely popular which has seen us grow to over 500 weekly paddlers.

We are proud to offer people access to the beautiful Sydney Harbour and we do this with little to no impact to the local residents or businesses. Our paddlers launch into the water from 5:30am with little noise and the paddling sessions takes place km's away from the clubhouse. We have a large number of people who ride their bikes to the paddle session and for those who do drive in, parking isn't a concern to local residents as our paddling sessions take place so early in the mornings.

Kayak storage on the water's edge is a great way to eliminate the danger of people carrying surf skis from their cars with a surf ski on their shoulder as they cross the road or walk down tight slippery footpaths to the waters edge.

Sydney Harbour Surf Club supports the opportunity for any Kayak storage to be built on the water's edge to provide people the opportunity to exercise out on the water.



Luke Horder

Director

luke@sydneyharboursurfclub.com.au

0405444311

From: Luke Hayes hayez3@gmail.com
Subject: Storage
Date: 10 September 2020 at 9:26 am
To: robbie@manlyboatshed.com



Hi Robbie,

In the past my ski was stored in a shed next to the old Manly Aquarium and we lost that space as renovation occurred on the water slides. At that time i was searching around for storage and i was put on a waiting list with yourself, Little Manly and storage at the spit bridge and advised it could be years until a spot came available, therefore my ski was left on the roof of my car permanently , which is still the case for many of the paddlers who i currently paddle with.

I have become friends with a few of the surf ski distributors and they have advised the sport has been the fastest growing sport for the past couple of years and during covid sales have gone extremely well. The sport suits a range of people and everyone can do socially without being in close quarters with others. I feel the sport will continue to grow as it can suit all age groups and is popular for men and women.

However the big issue with the sport is storage, as they dont fit in an average garage, if you live in an apartment complex, the length of the ski and often height clearance to get into a parking garage limits you.

I live in the heart of Manly and if you manage to have a safe spot to place a push bike i would use the commute to paddle on my bike along the foreshore, as i know many friends would do the same if they have the opportunity to store their skis at Manly boat shed.

Please let me know if you will have more space available and i can advise many of the paddlers within the groups

Kind Regards
Luke Hayes
0402 394 816