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RE: DA2020/1027 - 0 Stuart Street MANLY NSW 2095

RESPONSE TO DA2020/1027

WHAT IS A CAFÉ/RESTAURANT RUN BY RESTAURANT CHAIN 'RIPPLES' DOING ENGULFING AN EXISTING, HIGHLY USED AND MUCH NEEDED TOILET BLOCK AT LITTLE MANLY BEACH?

Where else in Sydney is this allowed to happen?

Hundreds of people daily use Little Manly beach and this is on the increase. It is one of Manly's well loved and highly used, small, family harbourside beaches with visitor levels escalating enormously over the last few years. There is one toilet block meeting the need of all comers as well as visitors to the adjacent Gasworks Point park.

The café as it exists compromises the use of the public toilet block and the extensions as documented in the DA further exacerbates this problem.

At present you shower adjacent to people sitting at tables. With the extension of the take away counter as proposed in the DA, customers will be served food and drink adjacent to the mens' toilet airlock entry. To use the showers, the accessible toilet or the mens' public toilet you will have no choice but to negotiate people queued waiting for their coffee or toasted sandwiches.

Set back behind Ripples Restaurant complete with multiple signage and new glass frontage, the toilets are not easy to find given you don't expect public toilets, showers and changerooms to be set in behind a private restaurant with no beach address.

To shower while people stand watching or sit eating their meals is distasteful and an inappropriate mismatch of usage. Conversely to be served food and drink adjacent to the entry of a public toilet with not even a door between is appalling and must certainly be in breach of health regulations.

On the womens' side the main door into the kitchen is similarly adjacent to the airlock entry into the womens' public toilet. Same again, the same mismatch of usage and compromise of basic public amenity, amenity that all beach visitors have the right and need to use.

A privately run café/restaurant engulfing a public toilet block is inappropriate and alienates people from using a basic public amenity. How can Council allow this unfortunate situation to get worse?

That this tenancy was allowed is bad enough, now Prophetable Holdings is applying for not the

first, but a second expansion of the café. It is only time before a third and fourth be proposed. The building and the public space around it are not big enough to function as both public toilets, changerooms and external showers as well as a private restaurant.

Just stop. Give the beach a chance, a helping hand to cope graciously with the increase in visitors without alienating more public amenity in order to max out the profits of an opportunistic restaurateur. A glass enclosed restaurant has no place on Little Manly, which by its essence is a small scale, suburban, harbourside beach.

Council should stand up for public amenity despite its commercial involvement with the lease.

Dr. Susan Rice
Architect and Little Manly resident for over 35 years