

Attention The Panel Secretariat
Northern Beaches Council

BY EMAIL (ONLY)

Dear Panel Members,

09 DECEMBER 2024

CONCERNS: AMENDED DA PROPOSAL FOR NEWPORT SLSC FACILITIES.

Land and Environment Court Proceedings No. 2023/109048 (DA2021/2173) – Written Submission Supporting Approval of Application for alterations and additions and coastal protection works to Newport Surf Life Saving Club

The Newport SLSC has a strong community base, and the facilities have been in dire need of modernisation for quite some time now. Refusing such a modernisation proposal would damage the heart of a strong community and would counter strong community disbelief and opposition.

I support the latest layout amendments of the Newport SLSC's Club Renovations DA and support the Newport Surf Life Saving Club's proposed Clubhouse renovations for the following reasons:

- The proposed amendments to the Main Gear Shed access and eastern / northern concourse changes will not adversely impact NSLSC's operations and provide additional mitigation measures to protect the existing and new portions of the building in the event of a major future storm event.
- We understand that NBC Council and NSLSC Representatives have worked closely with the Council's Coastal Engineering experts to develop a functional and effective solution to mitigate potential future coastal and wave inundation risks identified to the existing Heritage Clubhouse building and the proposed new renovated portions of the building.
- NBC, as the elected Council, has fully supported and sponsored the Newport SLSC's Club Renovations DA on behalf of the wider community and the surf club. As a local resident/community member, we support Council's right and responsibility to undertake urgently needed building upgrades and maintenance to the existing Clubhouse building as a critical emergency services facility and an important community asset.
- We support Council's the ability to install coastal protection works in front of the existing heritage-listed Newport SLSC Clubhouse to prevent the ultimate potential destruction of this vital community asset and the traditional home of the Newport Surf Club since the 1930s.

The amended DA proposal incorporates necessary coastal engineering protection measures now agreed by the experts for the existing Clubhouse, which must be undertaken as a priority to avoid the potential for significant damage or the possible destruction of our Clubhouse due to a significant storm event. These coast protection works are essential to maintain public safety and are required regardless of whether the Clubhouse is renovated and should be undertaken as soon as practically possible.

- The **Newport Surf Life Saving Club is classified as an Essential Service Facility** (as gazetted as part of the Emergency Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2018)
During patrol hours for the last 10 years the Club effected the following rescued and preventative actions: 621 Rescues
10,500 preventative actions

Any proposal to relocate the Clubhouse to another location is ill-founded and not based on sound technical or engineering facts. The amended reports prepared by the Council's expert consultants as part of the current proceedings demonstrate that any such relocation of the Club's facilities cannot be accommodated due to a range of environmental and physical constraints, not to mention the potential loss of public parkland or parking resulting from a relocated building footprint.

Any relocation of the existing Clubhouse would create a dangerous precedent for the beachgoing public and would severely hinder the Newport Surf Club's ability to undertake its emergency services operations. Beach safety surveillance and the Club's ability to rapidly deploy emergency rescue craft during a rescue event would be dangerously compromised. Any relocation of the public amenities and change rooms that form part of the Clubhouse complex away from their logical beachside location would create further safety and inconvenience issues for the beach going public by forcing young kids or elderly/disabled citizens to traverse a busy carpark to gain access to remotely located amenities.

The proposed renovation and rationalisation of the Club's facilities creates the opportunity to adequately address WHS issues associated with the ageing building and bring it into line with current-day compliance and safety standards which protects our volunteer Members and the general beachgoing public using the clubhouse building.

The existing clubhouse building is not Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant. Many areas within the existing building are not accessible due to floor-level changes that prohibit equitable access and the existing lift access to the building is very poorly located. The proposed renovation and rationalisation of the Club's facilities creates the opportunity to adequately address non-compliant disabled and equitable access to the existing Clubhouse and bring the building up to modern-day accessibility compliance standards.

- The existing clubhouse has evolved organically over the last 90-odd years without a rational master plan. This has resulted in the current building being dysfunctional and inefficient in several areas and this restricts and often hampers the Club's operations.
- The existing clubhouse is used for a variety of community and broader SLS Branch uses in addition to servicing the Club's Life Saving needs. The inability of the existing building to cater for several different activities at any one time severely restricts the operations of the Club and other community/SLS Branch groups wishing to utilise the Clubhouse.

The Newport Surf Life Saving Club undertakes an extremely valuable service to the local community. It deserves contemporary, safe, and compliant facilities commensurate with its contribution to and its standing within the local community.

We urge the Court to now approve the Club's DA proposal as a matter of priority.

Yours Sincerely,

Luc Vandewiele
Associate Member and
Northern Beaches resident.

