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12/10/2021

MR Michael Cooper
25 Kooloora AVE
Freshwater NSW 2096
[REDACTED]

RE: DA2021/1620 - 31 Moore Road FRESHWATER NSW 2096

I would like to provide my SUPPORT for the proposed developments and improvements slated for the Hilton Hotel.

I wish the new owners of the Hotel all the best as they continue to invest in and improve a long held and critically important part of the Freshwater community. To date the new owners could not have demonstrated a stronger commitment to community and consultation including the 1st DA process which not only transformed the hotel to a contemporary family environment but also vastly improved the important community considerations of noise and patron management. As a passionate and closely located resident we think they have done a magnificent job in rejuvenating an iconic component of the Freshwater landscape, created a venue locals love whilst ensuring that all neighbors and residents are considered.

Based on my reading of the numerous consultants reports that if implemented (as they were as part of the 1st DA) the important issues for local residents will be addressed. The sound lock doors, the management of the live music schedules and the glass acoustic panels have all contributed to less noise impact on residents. This together with the dramatically increased staffing to manage the movement of patrons entering and exiting the venue has ensured the loud late night departures are very much an exception. In fact, there is more noise generated from the visitors enjoying and departing from the 'Freshie Park' than the pub. The reports support the construction of various acoustic measures and confirms agreed volume limits for music to limit noise.

I have read a number of comments relating to concerns around increased traffic driven by this new DA. I note the DA proposes a capacity increase from 820 to 900, which by any measure could not be considered significant. At the end of the street is one of Sydney's favourite and heavily populated beaches attracting thousands and thousands of visitors each and every week creating enormous traffic volume. The pub has been closed for months and the traffic volume is unchanged. In addition, the pub could not be better located for traffic management with a bus stop directly opposite and a short walk to the taxi rank in the Village. I also note the pub owners commitment for the operation of a minibus on busy trading nights.

Freshwater and specifically the Freshwater Basin is a vibrant community with numerous cafes, restaurants, clubs, pubs and bars, beautiful parks and of course the ever popular beach all within walking distance. All these elements, including The Harbord Hotel, are what makes Freshwater a unique and special location and attracts residents wanting to live in the area and visitors wanting to enjoy what Freshwater has to offer. This should never change.