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**From:** DYPXCPWEB@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au  
**Sent:** 24/02/2025 3:58:07 PM  
**To:** DA Submission Mailbox  
**Subject:** Online Submission

24/02/2025

MRS Britt de Knecht  
1 / 1 U 1 1 Waine St ST  
Freshwater NSW 2096  
[REDACTED]

**RE: DA2025/0077 - 28 Lawrence Street FRESHWATER NSW 2096**

Freshwater is known for its vibrant yet relaxed village atmosphere, a rare and treasured quality that attracts both residents and visitors. Large-scale developments like this threaten to fundamentally alter the identity of the area. The village has always been a place where small, locally owned businesses thrive, and excessive commercialisation risks turning it into just another overdeveloped suburb.

The scale of this development, particularly the demolition of existing buildings and the addition of 30 apartments and nine retail spaces, could lead to significant disruption. The community needs assurance that Freshwater's charm won't be lost in the process of modernization. A balance must be struck between development and maintaining what makes Freshwater special.

The proposed development includes 106 parking spaces, which will be shared between residents and retail visitors. However, with 30 apartments, multiple commercial spaces, and the already limited parking in Freshwater, this will likely result in further congestion.

Lawrence Street and surrounding roads are already struggling with traffic, particularly during peak hours and weekends.

The development's traffic impact assessment assumes efficient public transport use, but the reality is that Freshwater's bus services are unreliable, meaning many new residents will likely rely on cars.

Increased congestion will not only make it harder for residents and visitors to navigate the area but could also negatively impact local businesses that depend on convenient access for customers.

Freshwater's business community is already feeling the strain of uncertainty. With ongoing construction at 48 Lawrence Street and now this large-scale project, the prospect of half the main street turning into a construction site is deeply concerning.

How long will businesses be impacted by noise, dust, and reduced foot traffic?  
Will current tenants be forced out due to rising rents and uncertainty around timelines?  
What plans are in place to mitigate disruption and protect small businesses?

While growth is inevitable, it should not come at the cost of Freshwater's identity, local businesses, and livability. I urge the council to carefully consider the impact of this

development on the community and take steps to ensure traffic congestion, parking shortages, and construction disruption are properly addressed.

Freshwater Village is a unique and cherished place, let's make sure it stays that way.

Thank you for your time and consideration.