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16/01/2023

MR Glen Borg
- 48 Beaconsfield ST
Newport NSW 2106

RE: REV2022/0024 - 394 Barrenjoey Road NEWPORT NSW 2106

I disagree with the SNPP's refusal of the Newport SLSC's Club Renovations DA and support the Newport Surf Life Saving Club's proposed Clubhouse renovations.

As the elected Council, NBC 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 object to the SNPP usurping the Council's responsibility to maintain critical community assets.

The decision to deny the Council the ability to install coastal protection works in front of the existing heritage-listed Newport SLSC Clubhouse will result in the ultimate potential destruction of this vital community asset and the traditional home of the Newport Surf Club since the 1930s.

The DA proposal incorporates necessary coast engineering protection measures 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 powerful 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 Council needs to draw the line somewhere to protect the Club, the Playground and ultimately, the road. This stand should be in front of the club, which will save high costs in the future.

The SNPP's proposition that the Clubhouse could be relocated to another location was not based on research and completely ignored the documents presented to the panel. I attended each online meeting, and it was clear from the questions they posed to the council that many members did not read the documents present and based their determination on material not presented or available in the public domain. For this reason, a review of the decision is justified.

Furthermore, the panel chose to place its views on coastal erosion above the other factors to be considered, including public safety, more specifically, the importance of passive surveillance available due to the club's current position. This fact can be attributed to saving at least six lives in the past three years.

For these reasons, a review of the decision is justified.

The proposed DA maintains the critical position of the club, which is a vital component of delivering on the chain of survival in any emergency incident and addresses all the modern needs of a club that have been neglected for over 15 years, including,

- Member and Public OH&S issues
- Improved Disability access
- Meeting the needs of a growing membership
- Providing concurrent and multi-event facilities to the community

No one denies the impacts of climate change on our lives and its effect on our coastal regions. Many options will be available to deal with these changes to protect local community assets. The issue at hand here is that a separate, unelected body and non-representative panel heavily biased towards one point of view has completely ignored a local community's decision to choose an approach.

In the words of Minister Stokes, "when we are talking about a community-owned surf club, whose very reason for being requires it to be adjacent to the surf, ideology must cede to common sense."

I urge the panel to use common sense and put our children's lives above ideology.