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12/01/2023

MRS Anna Valla
- 23 Karloo PDE
NEWPORT, Sydney NSW 2106

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

As a senior citizen and 36 year resident of Newport I support the Northern Beaches Council's decision to review the refusal of the Newport Surf Club upgrade DA.

The decision to refuse the DA by the Sydney Northern Planning Panel is narrow minded and fails to properly address a number of very important safety and community issues which appear to have been complete ignored by the panel as part of their determination.

The Newport Surf Club undertakes a vital surf life saving and beach surveillance role for the Newport community and the wider Northern Sydney region. In addition the Club undertakes a number of very important social programmes such as nippers / youth beach safety training and mentoring as well as many programmes for senior members of the community. I would imagine the current clubhouse is one of the oldest (if not the oldest) operating clubhouses in the state and the existing building layout is now outdated and not safe for members or the public, it also does not facilitate easy access for aged and disabled members and visitor which I understand is a key aspect of the current upgrade plans.

The Panel and some fringe environmental groups claiming to represent the local community have suggested the existing heritage listed Clubhouse is left unprotected to be possibly destroyed by future major storm events and that it could somehow be relocated to another location. This makes no sense and in my view would endanger those wishing to use Newport Beach as the Surf Club could not properly supervise the beach from the carpark or Bert Payne Park behind the current sand dunes. In addition Bert Payne Park and the carpark area around the surf club is one of the busiest public recreation facilities in Newport and can not afford to be reduced in size to accommodate a new surf club and public amenities complex.

Any relocation of the Clubhouse would also impact the public toilets and changeroom facilities which are currently well located directly off the beach. As an elderly and less mobile member of the community Newport is one of the only beaches I can use due to its easy access to parking and the beach. I am concerned that any relocation to the clubhouse and public facilities would impact my ability to access the clubhouse and the public amenity facilities. I would imagine that any such relocation would also have a negative impact on disabled Club members and public and families with young children.

I applaud Council and the Newport Surf Club for the initiative of retaining and modernizing the existing heritage listed Surf Club so that the Newport Surf Club and the Council's professional Life Guard Service can continue to provide the essential beach safety and local community services which are so vital to our community.