
Sent: 22/05/2025 3:23:24 PM
Subject: DA2025/0132 - McDonalds Proposal Rejection

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as a concerned resident to object to the proposed development of a new McDonald's restaurant at 37 Roseberry Street Balgowlah.

There are already three McDonald's outlets within a 5km radius of the proposed site. The addition of another is excessive and unnecessary, especially when weighed against the considerable negative impacts on our community's health, safety, and wellbeing.

1. Public Health Impact

Fast food outlets like McDonald's are known contributors to poor dietary habits, rising obesity rates, and chronic health conditions such as diabetes and heart disease. Locating another store in our area—especially one so close to schools and community playing fields—only increases exposure to unhealthy food choices and undermines efforts to promote healthy lifestyles.

2. Impact on Children and Community Facilities

This proposed outlet is dangerously close to popular local sporting fields and recreational areas used by children and families. These are spaces intended to encourage physical activity and community engagement. The presence of a fast-food chain close to such facilities contradicts their purpose and invites poor dietary behaviours among young people, increased littering, and loitering.

3. Undermining Local Small Businesses

Our community thrives on the strength of local cafés, family-owned restaurants, and independent food vendors. Another multinational fast-food outlet threatens their viability by diverting customers and exploiting cost advantages that small operators simply can't match. This could result in job losses and a less diverse, less vibrant local economy.

4. Increased Traffic, Congestion and Road Safety Issues

The area already experiences heavy traffic, particularly during school hours and on weekends when sporting events are held. The construction phase alone will add congestion, noise, and safety risks. Once operational, the restaurant would attract a high volume of vehicle traffic, including drive-through and delivery services, worsening conditions on already overburdened roads and endangering pedestrians and cyclists.

5. Social Issues and Criminal Activity

Fast food outlets that operate late into the night can become hotspots for anti-social behaviour, noise disturbances, and even criminal activity. This is a real concern for nearby residents, particularly those living within close proximity to the proposed site. These venues often attract groups of loitering youths and can require additional policing and council resources to manage issues arising from intoxicated individuals or vandalism.

In conclusion, this development offers no meaningful benefit to the local community and instead brings a host of public health, social, and economic risks. I respectfully urge the council to reject this application in favour of initiatives that genuinely support the long-term wellbeing and cohesion of our suburb.

--
Óran.