
From: DYPXCPWEB@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au
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Subject: Online Submission

16/01/2023

MR Kyle Valla
1 / 23 Karloo PDE
Newport NSW 2106
[REDACTED]

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

As a lifelong resident of Newport & as a former Nippers, SRC, Bronze & Active Patrolling member of the Newport Surf Lifesaving Club I support Northern Beaches Council's submission to have the Sydney North Planning Panel's shortsighted & irresponsible refusal of the Newport SLSC Clubhouse upgrade DA.

The Newport Surf Club building is a much loved & utilized community facility which provides a vitally important beach safety & community services role for our locality. The Clubhouse is a Heritage listed building & most likely the oldest continuously operating Surf Club building in Australia. The decision by the panel to refuse the construction of a protective underground structure to ensure the Clubhouse is protected & not destroyed by future severe storm events is quite frankly irresponsible.

I understand the Panel has suggested that the Surf Club building could be moved away from the beach. This is a preposterous suggestion as the Surf Club & Council's professional Lifeguards could not properly undertake their vitally important beach surveillance activities or get rescue craft in & out of the water in the event of an emergency rescue scenario if the Clubhouse is located away from the beach & behind the sand dunes. In addition the local community would not accept a reduction of the Bert Payne public park & parking reserve which is the most used park on the peninsula.

Newport is one of the biggest & strongest surf clubs in Australia yet the Club's facilities are now outdated with many problems including undersized & unsafe storage areas & a lack of proper training rooms. The clubhouse desperately needs an upgrade so that volunteer members & their young nippers children can use the club safely.

I understand that the Surfrider group has previously posted negative comments about Newport Surf Club & has objected to the Club's DA. More recently this group has posted unfounded negative comments about the Club's DA. From my experience Surfrider has no track record at all of supporting the younger generation in our area, they do not represent the local Newport community & have a track record of not supporting the surf lifesaving movement generally.

I fully support Council's commitment to overturn the flawed refusal of the Newport Clubhouse DA by the Sydney North Planning Panel.