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To: DA Submission Mailbox
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29/03/2022

MR Paul Meehan
107 Prince Alfred PDE
Newport NSW 2106

RE: DA2022/0246 - 120 Prince Alfred Parade NEWPORT NSW 2106

Florence Park absolutely does need trees, and I look forward to the replacement of the poisoned tree with a relevant native tree to shade the play area.

The lodged DA has suggested alternatives to mitigate further erosion and degradation of the public area while addressing the dangerous pedestrian access.

The introduction of Chinese Banyan trees, an unprotected species planted many years ago, located outside 120 Prince Alfred Parade, has no cultural significance and poses an ongoing threat to the residents.

The DA's proposal to heavily prune these trees would be of short term benefit only. Aggressive pruning should have been an ongoing control which is required to stunt the growth of all fig trees .. they are essentially a "container" tree for residential purposes.

Replacing with a corridor of Australian native trees would not only encourage bird life and provide the appropriate shade and foliage but also be the correct local species for the soil and terrain of Salt Pan Cove,

The damaging growth below the ground level and within the storm water drain continues to create unprecedented exposure to existing infrastructure and of equal obligation, the potential for personal injury either with the unsealed dirt track which has been caused by the above ground expansion of the tree roots (they are the size of a child) or poor visibility for drivers navigating this part of the street which is always in dark shadows and frequently wet.

The tree closer to Pittwater has been struggling since the seawall was put into place, the root system of this tree has no boundaries and were probably disturbed in the process (great work with the building of the seawall .. it has had a significant and positive impact on the use of Florence Park).

The continuous falling leaves and litter from the fallen berries constantly cloggs the street drain. It requires regular maintenance to clear the drain of the build up of leaves to avert any overflow. This has become most critical during this time of continuous and heavy rainfall.

I welcome yesterday's Roads & Assets Referral response for the pruning back or removal of the hedge which had already been confirmed with the owner. This will widen the public pathway but will only allow safe pedestrian access up to the driveway of 120.

The response falls short of investigating the Banyon tree, it's branches and huge roots. Keeping this tree will not "provide a connection to the adjoining reserve". There is no connection to the stairway or park posing a greater risk to pedestrians. The roots and bottom of the tree are a trip hazard while blocking safe entry into the park. The stairs into the park at this end are always wet and slippery as they get no sun so never to dry out.

I will email some current photos via the Council 'mailbox' to attach to my submission. These will include recent stormwater overflow and extent of the root system which restricts access. Already on file from March 2021 is a Community Safety Concern submission complied by arborist Kyle Hill.

Please give consideration to my written submission and photo evidence.
I am also keen to meet on site.

Paul Meehan