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14/01/2023

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

As a lifelong resident of Newport & as a former Nippers member of the Newport Surf Lifesaving Club I support Northern Beaches Council's submission to reverse the Sydney North Planning Panel's (SNPP's) flawed refusal of the Newport SLSC Clubhouse upgrade DA.

The Newport Surf Club building is an iconic community facility which undertakes an important essential services & beach safety role for the general public & Club members. In addition to the vital emergency life safety role it facilitates, the Clubhouse has provided the facilities for an important range of community services undertaken by the Newport Surf Club for our local community since 1933. Accordingly the existing Clubhouse is a Heritage listed building & one the oldest continuously operating Surf Club building in Australia. The decision by the SNPP to refuse the Council's DA & prevent construction of a protective structure to protect the existing heritage Clubhouse from serious damage or destruction by future severe storm events is completely out of touch with local community sentiment & not in the public interest.

As part of its justification for refusal the SNPP has indicated that the Surf Club building could be moved away from the beach. This is a nonsensical & potentially dangerous suggestion as the Surf Club & Council's professional Lifeguards could not properly undertake their vitally important beach surveillance & supervision activities or rapidly mobilize rescue craft in the event of an emergency rescue scenario if the Clubhouse is located remotely from the beach & behind the sand dunes or existing parkland. This suggestion indicates that the SNPP either does not understand or has ignored the emergency services nature of the Surf Club facility. Would such a suggestion have been made if the facility was an ambulance or fire station ?? In addition a reduction of the Bert Payne public park & parking reserve would not be acceptable to the local community as this public recreation area the is one of the most utilized parklands on the northern beaches.

Whilst the existing Clubhouse is much loved by most locals & club members the Club's facilities are now well outdated with many problems including undersized & unsafe storage areas & a lack of proper training & function rooms. The clubhouse desperately needs an upgrade so that volunteer members & their young nippers children can use the club safely. The upgrade is also necessary so that Newport SLSC can continue to protect the beach going public with up to date & contemporary facilities.

The Northern Beaches Council has worked closely with the Newport SLSC, local stakeholders & it's appointed expert Architects & Engineers over several years to develop a DA which carefully balances the needs of the environment, coastal engineering risks, the Club's specific emergency services & life saving operations & the needs of the local community. The detailed information provided in the DA documents posted on line indicates that engineering & coastal inundation risks have been exhaustively reviewed & peer reviewed by professionally qualified & experienced Engineers. In contrast the objections lodged a couple of external parties lack

substance and proper scientific evidence & are narrow in their perspective of the many important factors & constraints surrounding this important project.

Northern Beaches Council has responsibly reviewed all matters of public interest & importance associated with this important public facility upgrade project. Council should be strongly supported for its commitment to overturn the flawed refusal of the Newport Clubhouse DA by the Sydney North Planning Panel.