
Sent: 5/06/2020 3:58:46 PM
Subject: Online Submission

05/06/2020

MR John ONeill
703 / 581 Gardeners Roar ST
Mascot NSW 2020
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RE: DA2020/0442 - 231 Whale Beach Road WHALE BEACH NSW 2107

To whom it may concern,

I write in relation to this DA as an interested party. I am a former Northern Beaches (Avalon) resident, Chairman of Surfing NSW and frequent patron of the café/restaurant/retail facilities at Whale Beach Neighbourhood Centre.

I am also a former colleague of the proponent, Mr Les Cassar, who was Chairman of Tourism NSW during the time I was its chief executive. In these capacities, we spoke often about the importance of appropriate and sustainable development in NSW destinations.

I have reviewed the plans, 3D fly-through and architectural rationale and I am writing in support of what Mr Cassar is proposing.

As I understand it, this property is the only commercially zoned property in Whale Beach and Mr Cassar is replacing the present five apartments with five new apartments.

He is redeveloping and reconfiguring the site to replace with a similar number of shops as now, and, largely within the existing building size. I also understand he is conforming overall with all of council's development controls, including height limits and setbacks.

From speaking with him, I know that he hopes to improve the public utility of the centre as a community hub, which currently houses the only café/restaurant in the area "Whale Beach Deli", part of the Boathouse Group, of which I have been a regular patron.

From my perspective, he is replacing the currently dilapidated building with a wonderful design that will do Whale Beach proud.

As mentioned, I am already a regular at the coffee shop (I surf on the northern beaches as often as possible) and it is a perfect place for me to meet up with friends over coffee and food.

The improved amenity of what is proposed looks absolutely amazing to me.

I know that Les and Dee plan to continue to live in the building after its redevelopment (and are both very proud community members).

I also note from the drawings that the proposed building is lower than the existing building and that architect has pointed out it will be a lot less bulky than the Surf Club to the south.

I also see that the proposal includes parking for 21 cars for residents, retail staff and

customers, in line with requirements, and that this compares with the existing site that has 4 parking places which, due to the dilapidated condition of the building, are not even being used. That can only be an improvement from my perspective.

To my eye, Les's architect has designed a sympathetic and compliant building, appropriate to its context and aesthetically quite beautifully designed.

I believe it will enhance, not hinder, the amenity of the neighbourhood and provide a wonderful modern meeting place for friends, families and their visitors while also getting the opportunity to enjoy one of Australia's most beautiful beaches.

Yours sincerely,