
From: leonor gouldthorpe
Sent: 13/03/2024 10:13:38 AM
To: Council Northernbeaches Mailbox
Subject: Mod2023/0684
Attachments: Palm Beach.docx;

Palm Beach, 12 March 2024

To the Development Determination Panel

Ref: DA2023/0684

Dear Sirs,

I wish to express my concern about the Modification DA for the DA in reference.

I am a long- term resident of Palm Beach. The Governor Phillip Park is considered as a most valued place of relaxation and enjoyment of the natural environment by local people and the public in general, as demonstrated by the large number of visitors that frequent it both from Australia and from overseas.

The park is currently under strain by the number of visitors and unfortunately, its upkeep has been unsatisfactory over the years. Roads are eroded and filled with holes from vehicle traffic as well as flooded when it rains. Vegetation is damaged by cars wishing to extend the very limited parking facilities. Local fauna is frequently killed or injured.

This area is geographically a thin peninsula and of a limited size. As such, is prone to storm/tidal erosion from both the Pittwater and ocean side. Prolonged rains cause flood damage and it is not unusual to find carparking areas under water. There is also a fire hazard. In recent years, the area surrounding the Barrenjoey Light house was extensively burnt. In other words, this is a fragile environment in great need of periodical maintenance and requiring careful, sustainable development.

There are already hospitality venues both in the park itself and in its proximity, across the main road and neighbouring residents have experienced throughout the years, varying degrees of disruption because of them. The initial DA was approved by the Council with these considerations in mind I believe, but the new modifications would stray much too far from them and from the Governor Phillip Park Plan of Management.

The Original Approval is for seating of 152 patrons, to “maintain the amenity of the adjoining parkland and nearby residential properties”. The restaurant is advertising it on line “as a site suitable to host up to 250 guests for your special day”. This reflects a total lack of awareness of the character of the park and a serious disregard for the Local Council’s regulatory process. Hopefully it’s not an indication of future attitudes to the conditions attached to the DA approval.

The conditions of Consent for Hours of Operation (page72) were granted “to ensure that amenity of the surrounding locality is maintained” This is after all, a park open to all the community. The swiftness of the Modification application, shortly after the restaurant opened and its impending quick determination I fear, has kept many people in the dark

about these significant proposed changes. An extension of this process would allow other residents as well as people who frequent the park to be adequately informed.

I believe hours of operation should remain as they stand in the initial DA and conditions of consent adhered to. I oppose the Modification DA calling for hours of operation from 7am to 11pm, 7 days a week, as totally unsustainable considering the geographical characteristics, the noise and traffic disruption to neighbours and restriction of usage by the general community because of limited parking and other facilities.

Sincerely,

Leonor Gouldthorpe
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NSW 2108