
Sent: 19/07/2020 9:59:27 PM
Subject: DA 2020/0552
Attachments: DA20200552 - Manly Dam.docx;

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please ensure that this submission is sent to all councillors and to your planning department responsible for assessing this Development Application 2020/0552.

Please confirm receipt of this email.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Cullen

Jenny Cullen
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PO Box 88
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19th July, 2020

Northern Beaches Council,
PO Box 82 Manly NSW 1655 Australia

RE: DA2020/0552 - 181 Allambie Road ALLAMBIE HEIGHTS NSW 2100

Dear Northern Beaches Council staff and councillors,

I deeply object to the current proposal in DA2020/0552 to develop and diminish yet more of the bushland preserved in and adjacent to Manly Warringah War Memorial Park. It would be scandalous to pass this proposal when our native flora and fauna are under such massive threats on all sides. There should be no more reductions to the biodiversity values and total area of this precious natural asset.

Lifetime of assaults on this bushland

I am 62 and have visited “Manly Dam” and its bushland regularly since moving to the area in 1965. I love to walk along its trails, have had many family picnics there, and still take my elderly mother there to sit by the water, walk around and enjoy the birds. Yet, since I was about 8, I have also been watching with dismay and anger the progressive destruction and devaluing of the bushland at Manly Warringah War Memorial Park. Through my primary school years in the 1960s, my father battled with other appalled residents to try and stop the proposal for the Wakehurst golf course. I can remember the disgusted and defeated look on his face as he returned from the Council meeting which approved the golf course. All the valid reasons that they gave against the golf course, proved true as weeds and algal blooms followed, as well as habitat loss.

Other battles I remember are the large senior citizens development at Allambie Heights, concerns over developments in the upper catchment, various proposals for recreational facilities, and most recently, the shocking destruction of bushland for the extension and APZ works at Manly Vale Public School. As each group pushes for their profit or self-interest, the long-term survival of our native ecosystems, with all the complex variety and interactions of its plants and animals, become more and more threatened. There should simply be NO further excisions or developments within this precious bushland.

More specifically, I raise the following objections to this DA:

1. Crown Land:

Crown land was reserved for public use and for the overall good of the country e.g. natural resource protection. When we are lucky enough to have public land with bushland in the midst of a huge city like Sydney, it is an irreplaceable asset set aside by our forefathers. It should not be given over to any development other than completely public use and the preservation of our native flora and fauna.

2. Bushfire risk

After our horror summer, it should be self-evident that we do not allow more development, especially for seniors, adjacent to such bushland. The Rural Fires Act (Planning for Bush Fire Protection 2006) specifically discourages locating Special Fire Purpose Developments within bush fire prone land. The Asset Protection Zone requirements mean there will be considerable clearing beyond the building footprint. All bushland within the site will be managed to maintain fire fuel levels at less than 10t/ha. The requirements in APZ areas may continue to increase. With this clearing, biodiversity values are reduced so that the area is no longer a functioning ecosystem with the full range of local species previously living there.

3. Biodiversity preservation

87 of the existing 105 native trees within the site will be removed! This is virtually 90%! The development will remove about 6.8 (6,800 m²) of native vegetation on and adjoining the site. A total area of approximately 0.56ha (5,600m²) of native vegetation will be cleared. The Outer Protection Area (OPA) requires an additional clearing of approximately 0.12ha (1,200m²) of bushland in moderate and good condition.

The bushland on the site is contiguous with the Manly Warringah War Memorial Park and so its removal has significant impact on the flora and fauna's longterm survival.

The biodiversity assessments of the applicant identified eight threatened species within the site: Eastern Pygmy Possum, Large eared Pied Bat, Square Tailed Kite, Grey Headed Flying Fox, Powerful Owl, Large Bent Winged Bat, Red Crowned Toadlet, Little Bent Winged Bat.

Other species using the habitat of the site will also be impacted, putting further pressure on the remaining bushland. Habitat loss is the major cause of species decline for so many species. And in this case, it can be easily prevented. Just reject this application!

Biobanking credits are a deeply flawed system and no compensation at all for the local creatures. Where would the applicant buy similar local bushland, adjacent to a significant reserve actually?

4. Need for natural areas for public

The recent Coronavirus restrictions have highlighted how important it is to have as many natural areas as possible through urban and suburban settlements. All natural areas experienced a huge increase in visitation as people sought physical exercise and inner refreshment. There is a growing body of evidence of the beneficial psychological effects of contact with nature, and an area which still has some "wildness" has a much deeper effect than a grassed park. We can make more buildings, more built recreational areas, but we cannot make the complexity and beauty of original bushland with its interrelationships of landscape, water, plants and animals.

5. Honour our heritage

This reserve was set aside in the 1920s to honour the sacrifice of all those who fought and died in the First World War. It was to be a lasting tribute to their memory, where subsequent generations could enjoy the beauty of nature, while also being reminded of the horrors of the Great War. Most specially, it is the only "living" war memorial in Australia, created by conserving natural bushland with the whole area as the memorial. Rather than diminish it by whittling away its area and integrity, we should be increasing the protection offered for its

future. How could we celebrate its approaching centenary by strengthening its conservation values and status?

6. Catchment importance

Curl Curl Creek is the main feeder creek to Manly Dam and Manly Lagoon and protection of this whole catchment needs to be a priority. The creek is home to the only population of Climbing Galaxias fish in Sydney. This amazing Gondwanan relic from 60 million years ago climbs up sheer rocks using its fins and breathes through its skin, but its continued existence depends on clean unsullied freshwater. The dam itself is the only freshwater body in Sydney still clean enough for humans to swim in. Each development clearing bushland in the catchment reduces the naturally filtered and slowed flow of rainwater across and through the soil and increases the likelihood of sediment erosion and other pollutants entering the creek. The clearing and excavation required for this development would certainly affect the hydrology of the area.

In conclusion

Medium density apartments are completely inappropriate in this bushland site and the development would threaten many conservation values of Manly Warringah War Memorial Park. We can see the deleterious effects of each of the earlier decisions allowing developments and clearing within or adjacent to the park, as detailed at the start of this letter. I appeal to you to reject this proposal and defend the integrity of this precious bushland area preserved amidst suburban development thanks to the foresight of civically minded citizens a century ago.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Cullen

Cc: Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, Hon. Rob Stokes
All councillors