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Subject: Online Submission

16/04/2019

Select... Save Manly Dam Catchment Committee
ST
Manly Vale NSW 2093
savemanlydamcc@gmail.com

RE: DA2019/0200 - 130 Old Pittwater Road BROOKVALE NSW 2100

The Save Manly Dam Catchment Committee (SMDCC) is vehemently opposed to this development.

The proposed development site on the Brookvale Escarpment would entail the destruction of a significant part of a Category 2 Wildlife Corridor.

Brookvale Escarpment is part of a sizable, biodiverse and largely intact bushland refuge, linked to nearby reserves including Allenby Park, Gumbooya, Orara and Goondari Reserves; Manly-Warringah War Memorial Park, Garigal National Park, Ku-ring-gai National Park and beyond. It also has linkages - particularly for avian and aquatic species - to both Curl Curl and Manly Lagoon catchments into which rainfall runoff flows. Allenby Park, contiguous with Brookvale Escarpment, is known habitat for wallabies, bandicoots, goannas and many other native mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, microfauna species including threatened species such as Powerful Owls and Red-crowned Toadlets. SMDCC recognises the importance of all Manly Dam's surrounding bushland reserves and remnants for their native flora and fauna habitat and for wildlife migration across an increasingly congested urban environment.

Any removal of bushland also means a reduction in habitat for native fauna and flora species, along with an increase in hard surfaces and greater runoff into Curl Curl and Manly lagoons, increasing the flood risk in these areas.

According to the Flora and Fauna Assessment, a total of 43 indigenous plant species occur on the proposed development site and 16 species of conservation significance have been recorded within a radius of 5km of the site within the last 20 years. Hence the site area needs a far more comprehensive vegetation survey for all trees and shrubs proposed to be cleared.

SMDCC is also concerned about the Notification/Consultation processes. We have become increasingly disenchanted by the notification maps and process used by Northern Beaches Council to advise of upcoming DA's. Whilst it probably complies with standard notification requirements, (as did the adjoining 138-140 Old Pittwater Rd bushland which ended up being recently bulldozed before residents were even aware that consent had been granted) this DA was notified to few - if any - houses in Allenby Park Parade or Corkery Crescent, and was sent only to other industrial premises. This is unfair when the proposed development site is bushland highly valued for its intrinsic merit by the local Allambie Heights community. Residents deserve and have the right to be consulted about such a massive impact on the amenity of their surrounds. In this instance, a significant portion of a peaceful bushland sanctuary - which some residents have enjoyed for fifty or sixty years - is sleighted for replacement by a warehouse and industrial noise (at all hours of the day and night), and no formal notification is received by affected residents. This is very poor process.

Nobody at a state or local government level appears to be looking after the big picture - each of these developments individually destroy parcels of bushland "consistent with surrounding developments" however collectively they destroy the habitat and corridors for flora and fauna in our local area. Habitat is zoned and approved for development with the resultant flora and fauna loss considered to be of little consequence because it is deemed 'common' or plentiful elsewhere. Increasingly though, as we have seen on the Northern Beaches in recent decades, once common species are becoming rare, endangered or locally extinct.

SMDCC strongly maintains that this development is NOT consistent with the desired future character of the locality and calls upon Northern Beaches Council to refuse this development outright.

Yours Faithfully
Mr M.Houston
Secretary
Save Manly Dam Catchment Committee