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Sent: 20/05/2024 4:36:43 PM
To: DA Submission Mailbox
Subject: Online Submission

20/05/2024



RE: DA2024/0492 - 21 A Warili Road FRENCHS FOREST NSW 2086

Dear Thomas,

RE: DA 2024/0492 Subdivision - Community title subdivision comprising of 13 lots and new road - 49 Blackbutts Road Frenches Forest

We have reviewed the documents relating to the above DA and would like to comment on the following areas:

Geotechnical Investigation Report

We note that in table 4.3.2 on page 9 of the Geotechnical report, our house is noted as potentially affected by proposed excavation.

We also note recommendations made in the report on page 12 about retaining structures near site boundaries.

On page 15 of the report, it is indicated that:

"It is recommended that further development specific investigation occur to allow design and construction of individual structures for the sub-division (i.e. common road and lot boundary retention systems) which may be best undertaken following clearing of the site whilst individual lot developments/structures will require further detailed investigation and development specific reporting."

We would expect that Council will ensure appropriate requirements to manage and mitigate the risks to our property posed by excavation and development of retaining structures on the site and that Council will ensure appropriate investigations, as recommended on page 15 of the report, take place.

We re-iterate that our pool is directly behind the boundary fence, as shown in the aerial photograph of the site included in the documentation. Care will need to be taken to ensure that neither our house or pool is adversely affected by the proposed works that will take place in accord with this DA.

Flora and Fauna

A significant concern is the impact of the demolition of the buildings and the sub-division on the native flora and fauna of the site.

The documentation indicates that a significant number of trees will be removed from the site during the demolition and sub-division phases of the development.

As long-term neighbours of the Aruma site, we are aware that the trees and vegetation provide a haven for native wildlife. Even while Aruma was operating its packaging business on the site, personnel were generally not there on weekends or at night (although there were exceptions to this). This meant that the site has been a peaceful place for birds and animals, particularly outside of business hours.

As another resident has noted in a submission on DA 2024/0081, the site also had ponds and water features which hosted water birds and frogs, until Aruma filled these in before the site was put up for sale.

The native canopy trees on the site provide food and shelter for native wildlife. The preservation of tree canopy is becoming more critical due to climate change and we note that the state government has a policy of increasing urban tree canopy in Sydney; presumably Council also has an interest in this.

It has been pleasing to see Council planting trees around the Lionel Watts precinct in recent years. Unfortunately, these saplings do not always make it to adulthood. Several iterations of sapling plantings have taken place at the Lionel Watts dog park in recent years. Sadly, we've lost at least five medium sized trees from there in the last six months.

We've also noticed that whenever a "knock down rebuild" takes place in the surrounding streets, the canopy trees are generally removed and not replaced. This also occurs when residents remove canopy trees - they are generally not replaced. This makes it more important that existing native canopy trees that have grown to maturity, such as those on the site, are preserved to the extent possible.

We note the Flora and Fauna Assessment for the DA has been conducted in late autumn, heading into winter, at a time of year when there will be fewer birds and animals to be seen. (The report acknowledges these limitations.) During the warmer months, the trees on the site are full of native birds in the early morning and evening when the birds are feeding. The birds feeding there include kookaburras, cockatoos, native mynas and lorikeets. We have also seen tawny frogmouths, king parrots, honeyeaters and rosellas. Some or all of these birds may nest on site in spring. The kookaburras, in particular, are regularly at the site.

We would expect to find blue tongue lizards on the site, because we have them on our property.

Ringtail possums come to the site to feed from around the area. We see and hear them on our roof in the evening as they make their way along the telegraph wires and across our roof and back fence to the site. We also see their droppings below our back fence that runs alongside our pool. We assume there could also be ringtail and brushtail possums living on site.

Page 29 of the Flora and Fauna report notes the long local availability of local canopy flowering to provide food for birds, bats and insects. This means the trees and shrubs currently provide food for long periods of the year for local fauna.

This will be impacted by this subdivision and is likely to result in the loss of local wildlife, unless care is taken to preserve the native canopy trees and flora. It appears from the Arboricultural Impact Assessment Report that a large number of trees will be removed from

the site during the demolition and sub-division stages. We note that the landscape plans indicate the removal of a number of trees that appear to be in the garden areas of the sub-divided blocks and request that Council consider whether these need to be removed.

We request that Council supports the recommendations in the report for tree retention at 9.2 on page 16 and design modification at 9.3 on page 16 of the report. We also request that Council consider closely the need for removal of trees from the site and recommend a site visit prior to making decisions about tree removal, so that decision makers are familiar with the site and the trees to be retained and removed.

We note the report suggests that where some plants and trees are removed, plantings of similar flora will need to be made. This is positive, but the fauna will have very little to eat when the current vegetation is removed and the new plantings have not been established. We would expect that Council will ensure the new plantings do occur and are maintained.

There are a number of recommendations in the Flora and Fauna assessment designed to preserve flora and fauna and we expect that Council will ensure these are adhered to by the developer.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we request that Council consider the risks of this development to our house, pool and property and ensure that appropriate risk mitigations are in place.

We also urge Council to consider the need for the preservation of the native canopy trees and flora that provide food and shelter for our native wildlife, as well as the impacts of the development on the wildlife, with the aim of safeguarding and preserving the flora and fauna of the site to the greatest extent possible. Our native flora and fauna enhance the beauty of the area and are a key reason why people wish to live here.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]

(Please retract our email, phone number and address if this submission is made publicly available.)