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**From:** DYPXCPWEB@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au  
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**To:** DA Submission Mailbox  
**Subject:** Online Submission

02/12/2021

MR Rich Head  
76 Brighton ST  
Freshwater NSW 2096

**RE: DA2021/2116 - 145 Old Pittwater Road BROOKVALE NSW 2100**

Dear Mr Duncan

I write in response to the DA for the new recreation facility at the back of Warringah Mall.

Reading through the various documents, viewing plans, and getting a better understanding of the nature of the facility, I feel motivated to make a submission in support of the project put forward by this developer and the Mall owner.

It's great to see this proposal is more than just a new swimming pool or a gym that I thought it may have been.

From the development side, a couple of things stand out to me - the location, and the fact the development itself is the conversion of an existing (unused) area of the Mall rather than a large scale new construction - with associated environmental impact. The Demolition Report highlights that there are clearly new additions, and some demolition. However, far less energy will be used in the process than would be the case for a completely new build, with obvious efficiencies in utilising existing utilities infrastructure. From the design drawings I see, an added, but significant bonus will be the improved aesthetics. The rejuvenation of a now quite derelict area of the Mall will dramatically improve what has become a bit of an eye sore.

From the community perspective, the real positives I see are the location, and the broad range of amenities that will cater to a wide cross section of our community. On the location, the Mall is obviously a convenient spot for many given the excellent links to bus services. For those more likely to be using their own transport the 50+ parks available on site, along with the large Mall capacity itself removes one of the great headaches of many venues around the beaches. I see reference to the "dual purpose trip" in the documentation. I would suggest for many families it would be more like a "multi-purpose" trip with various combinations of swimming lessons or training, physio or wellness sessions, social catch-ups, picking up a few things from the supermarket, visiting the Post Office or other retail outlets in the Mall.

I also view any increase in our capacity to teach our young children to swim - or people of any age for that matter - as a positive for our community that is lucky enough to have the ocean on its' doorstep. Our Council and volunteer lifeguards do a tremendous job along the beaches keeping people safe in the water. Their role is however, becoming increasingly challenging as more people than ever enjoy the ocean. Training up competent swimmers, who one day may

become lifeguards themselves, is a good thing.

Reading up on some of the offerings in the wellness centre, they sound like pretty advanced methods for injury rehab and recovery. It would be great to have a facility like this that could be as beneficial to those suffering from chronic pain or recovering from accident or injury, as it is to top level athletes and sportspeople too. On a personal note I was knocked off my pushbike by a motorist last year and spent 6-9 months recovering from hip and knee injuries.. A facility like this that provided physiotherapy and low impact aqua rehab in one spot, as well as café and social contact would have been a dream scenario.

I agree with the comments in the Statement of Environmental Effects that these sorts of development projects are a good fit with the 'Towards 2040" LSPS initiative. An inclusive, healthy, safe, and socially connected community is a great community aspiration. So too is the recognition of changing community needs - a credit to the Council for not being 'set & forget' in its thinking. COVID has impacted life in so many different ways across the beaches over the last couple of years. Even as we open up there is still anxiety amongst many as to what the future may bring. Uncertainty remains, and as we've just seen, things can change so quickly with this dam virus.

One of the positives to come out of the pandemic though is an increased focus on mental health and wellbeing right across our community. To support this we want initiatives and developments that are easily accessible, cater for many, and provide additional avenues for improving physical and mental health. This proposed development is well aligned with these objectives, and is exactly what the LSPS envisages for our community's future.

I support it wholeheartedly.

Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Yours sincerely

Rich Head  
76 Brighton St  
Freshwater  
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