

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Council Mailbox](#)
Subject: TRIMMED: DA2020/1063 Mike Pawley and Frank Gray Sports Fields
Date: Monday, 23 November 2020 3:29:50 PM

Submission to the Assessing Planner

Application No. DA2020/1063

Address: Frank Gray and Mike Pawley Oval (John Fisher Park) Lot 2 DP225041, Lot 17 DP 240232, Lot 2 DP 513842 and Lot 2 DP 533226

Lot 2/ Bennett Street CURL CURL

Description: Alteration and additions to Sports Lighting

We refer to the Development Application DA2020/1063 concerning the proposed installation of lighting at the Mike Pawley and Frank Gray fields in John Fisher Park Curl Curl. The proposed lighting described as "Alterations and additions" appears to include the provision of lighting towers directly over the Mike Pawley and Frank Gray sports fields, with the aim of providing further facilities for practice and organised competition of unspecified sports.

While we understand the objective of providing an increase in sporting facilities to support a growing population in the wider Northern Beaches community, we do not support this Development Application for the following reasons:-

1. Flood-lighting would directly impact local residents along Manuela Place, Bennett Street and Holloway Place. These residents are directly adjacent to these fields and do not have the buffer of a roadway or tree canopy foliage, at the very least, like many other floodlit grounds. Indeed most other floodlit sporting grounds are situated well away from residential boundaries. This practice is for good reason and should be continued here.
2. This neighbourhood has been renowned for its quiet and peaceful location. Additional sporting activities in this area whether practice or competition after daylight hours would be detrimental to the many local residents and visitors who currently enjoy this tranquil setting. Many people young and old enjoy a walk, play in the park, go for a run, or exercise the dog, after school or work. These activities are also currently pursued in the quiet of the evening across these fields, undisturbed and unhindered. Protection of parkland is paramount.
3. Residents in the area immediately affected include young families with babies, shift workers and older residents with disabilities. The impact of flood-lighting and a dramatic increase in noise levels from sporting groups at these times would be very detrimental to these residents and should not be allowed to proceed. The consequential effects on the mental health and well-being of these very concerned residents needs to be addressed with respectful consideration.
4. The area does not have adequate and dedicated off road parking facilities to cater for large sporting groups, officials, participants and spectators. As a consequence these groups of visitors would park in the adjacent roads which include Manuela Place, Holloway Place and Bennett Street, using the laneways to transport themselves and their equipment to these grounds. Local residents are already affected by such activities now during weekdays and weekends. This includes visitors parking across driveways, narrow streets with parking on both sides, traffic congestion, unruly behaviour, restricted access for essential services and

emergency vehicles. Residents should not have to endure this situation now, let alone during the evening as well.

Provision of adequate off street parking to suit group sporting activities is essential for the safety and convenience of all concerned.

5. Curl Curl Ward is the smallest ward but has the highest population of the 5 wards in the Northern Beaches Council area. This density of population is despite containing the 2 major shopping centres and the most light industry of all of the Council wards. This ward also already provides the most flood-lit sporting ovals suitable for group sports. Additional flood lighting is not required in this ward. However it is desperately needed in the other wards which have similar populations and age demographics to Curl Curl, but spread over larger areas. New housing areas appear to be developed or considered in areas without suitable provision of adequate sporting recreational and green space. Curl Curl ward is already a transport hub for shopping, healthcare, employment, entertainment and education. An increase in traffic from sporting groups travelling from other wards or districts outside of this Council is totally unnecessary. The Wakehurst Parkway, Forest Way and Mona Vale Road corridors all contain very sizeable and suitable alternative resources for additional sporting fields. In the meantime co-operation between sporting groups, and better management of existing facilities within the park and within the ward is recommended.

6. Protection of green space in this ward is vital. Brookvale Park used to be an extensive area of designated parkland which has been severely eroded over the years since its creation until now, when virtually all that is left is Brookvale Oval, a tiny fraction of the original Park. John Fisher Park has since been created from an area used by the local Council as a Waste Disposal Facility. Greendale Creek has been and continues to be used as a waste disposal outlet by local industry. Many of us remember or recognise the effects of this degradation and are fortunate to have seen the improvements made by Council to remediate the grounds and to provide sporting and recreational facilities in the area. A considerable contribution to the provision of green space has been made by volunteers, in particular from members of the Curl Curl Lagoon committee and friends. May this good work of remediation and improvement continue to be rendered by council and volunteers in order to preserve parkland green spaces for all to enjoy, with trees and grass fields, not desecrated by more concrete, steel towers, communications equipment, buildings and pollution.

We respectfully request that urgent and due consideration be given to the withdrawal or rejection of this Development Application.

Signed

(Please redact all personal details)

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Residents and Ratepayers of this ward for more than 50 years.

