

Clause 4.6 Justification

No 29 Lakeview Parade Warriewood

Introduction - Content of the clause 4.6 request

Clause 4.6 relates to Exceptions to development standards.

1. The objectives of this clause are as follows:

- a) to provide an appropriate degree of flexibility in applying certain development standards to particular development,*
- b) to achieve better outcomes for and from development by allowing flexibility in particular circumstances.*

Comment:

The proposed development gives rise to a small breach of the building height plane by 200mm owing to the site slope and existing elevated ground floor level.

A justification for the variation is provided below:

Clause 4.6 of the LEP notably is designed to provide **flexibility when applying development standards particularly when the variation of the standard enables a better development outcome.**

The variation from the height control amounts to a small portion of the roof ridge, which generates a maximum building height of 8.7m. The encroachment into the height plane is for a portion of the roof only and is minor at a 200mm departure from the standard.

The existing dwelling is structurally sound however is elevated across the rear owing to the fall in the land. The location of the upper level as proposed is logical and appropriately relates to the street, rear yard and neighbouring dwelling circumstances.

Clause 4.6 of the instrument provides flexibility when applying development standards.

The proposed development has been architecturally designed to provide a well composed building that provides good amenity for future occupants, which respects the amenity of existing and future neighbouring

development and which is compatible with the emerging character and development pattern of the locality.

It is significant to note that the variation does not result in excessive floor space or development density. The variation does not manifest in an overdevelopment of the site.

No adverse planning consequences (shadowing, privacy, visual impact, urban design/streetscape, heritage, neighbourhood character) arise from the variation with the proposed development sitting comfortably on-site within the required setbacks. Rather, in this particular case the variation facilitates a good design outcome in terms of amenity, streetscape, built form and from a landscape context.

A reduction in the roof pitch can be provided to achieve numerical compliance, however such would appear disjointed and lack architectural expression.

For reasons expressed in this submission the ‘flexibility’ provided by clause 4.6 of the LEP facilitates design outcome that does not impact on any adjoining property despite the proposed variation to the building height standard.

(2) Development consent may, subject to this clause, be granted for development even though the development would contravene a development standard imposed by this or any other environmental planning instrument. However, this clause does not apply to a development standard that is expressly excluded from the operation of this clause.

Comment:

The height development standard is not expressly excluded from the operation of clause 4.6.

(3) Development consent must not be granted for development that contravenes a development standard unless the consent authority has considered a written request from the applicant that seeks to justify the contravention of the development standard by demonstrating—

(a) that compliance with the development standard is unreasonable or unnecessary in the circumstances of the case, and

(b) that there are sufficient environmental planning grounds to justify contravening the development standard.

Comment:

Objectives of development standard

The objectives of the height control development standard are:

- (a) to ensure that any building, by virtue of its height and scale, is consistent with the desired character of the locality,*
- (b) to ensure that buildings are compatible with the height and scale of surrounding and nearby development,*
- (c) to minimise any overshadowing of neighbouring properties,*
- (d) to allow for the reasonable sharing of views,*
- (e) to encourage buildings that are designed to respond sensitively to the natural topography,*
- (f) to minimise the adverse visual impact of development on the natural environment, heritage conservation areas and heritage items.*

The subject site is zoned to accommodate low density residential and the immediate precinct does contain dwellings built on large lots which contain similarly scaled dwellings. The proposed dwelling is proportionate with its site boundaries and will be consistent in this regard.

There will be no disruption of views, loss of privacy or significant loss of solar access given the site context and orientation.

There will be no erosion of bushland or scenic quality.

Compliance unnecessary

The proposed development proffers alternative means of achieving the objective of the minimum building height standard. The surrounding precinct maintains slightly sloping land and large residential dwellings in the R2 zone.

Pitched roofs are common in the precinct.

The proposed development achieves the desired residential character without comprising the amenity of the surrounding area in terms of visual impacts and solar access. A pitched roof is proposed in this instance and considered necessary.

The minor exceedance of the building height standard does not result in a building that is excessively bulky particularly as a typical two storey elevation is generated .

The containment of the proposed addition within the footprint of the dwelling is preferred relative to extending the dwelling into the green spaces/recreational area at the rear or into the front setback.

The non-compliance has not given rise to adverse impacts, which would affect neighbouring amenity and it is noted that there are no rear adjoining residential properties which could be adversely affected by the height non-compliance.

As the development proffers alternative means of achieving the objectives of clause 4.3 based on the site context, strict compliance is unnecessary.

Compliance unreasonable

There would be no purpose served if strict compliance was required by the consent authority.

As will be detailed in subsequent parts of this request the variation does not manifest in any adverse planning consequences in terms of streetscape, neighbourhood character or amenity (shadowing and privacy). There are no adverse 'flow on' non compliances or adverse environmental impacts arising from the variation in this instance.

A compliant development (building height) would have a similar performance in regards to overshadowing and bulk/scale. A flat roof profile could be provided to achieve compliance with the standard. Such would appear disjointed and is not the preferred outcome from an architectural perspective.

Despite the building height variation, a standard floor space ratio is achieved facilitating the orderly and economic development of the land.

No particular benefit would be derived from the application of the standard in this instance (rather compliance would result in negative urban design outcomes); strict compliance is therefore unreasonable.

The proposed design is effectively a better and more cost effective outcome than that of the approved design.

Environmental planning grounds

A written request must demonstrate that there are sufficient environmental planning grounds to justify contravening the development standard (cl 4.6(3)(b) and cl 4.6(4)(a)(i)).

The term “environmental planning grounds” is broad and encompasses wide environmental planning grounds beyond the mere absence of environmental harm or impacts : Tuor C in *Glenayr Avenue Pty Ltd v Waverley Council* [2013] NSWLEC 125 at [50].

In *Four2Five Pty Ltd v Ashfield Council* [2015] NSWLEC 1008, Pearson C held at [60] that environmental planning grounds as identified in cl 4.6 must be particular to the circumstances of the proposed development on a site. This finding was not disturbed on appeal (Pain J in *Four2Five Pty Ltd v Ashfield Council* [2015] NSWLEC 90 & Meaher JA; Leeming JA in *Four2Five Pty Ltd v Ashfield Council* [2015] NSWCA 248.

In this particular case the variation to the building height control does not impact on the ability of the proposal to accord with all other development standards and controls.

Compliance with the building height control in this instance would not achieve any additional architectural integrity or urban design merit of the development, as previously discussed.

Having regard to the above there are well founded environmental planning grounds to vary the development standard in this instance.

(4) Development consent must not be granted for development that contravenes a development standard unless—

(a) the consent authority is satisfied that—

(i) the applicant’s written request has adequately addressed the matters required to be demonstrated by subclause (3), and

(ii) the proposed development will be in the public interest because it is consistent with the objectives of the particular standard and the objectives for development within the zone in which the development is proposed to be carried out, and

(b) the concurrence of the Planning Secretary has been obtained.

Comment:

The objectives of the R2 low density zone are:

- *To provide for the housing needs of the community within a low density residential environment.*
- *To enable other land uses that provide facilities or services to meet the day to day needs of residents.*
- *To provide for a limited range of other land uses of a low intensity and scale, compatible with surrounding land uses.*

Comment:

The matters required to be demonstrated by subclause (3) have been adequately addressed.

The proposed development will be in the public interest because it is consistent with the objective of the particular standard and the objectives for development within the zone in which the development is proposed to be carried out.

The proposed development is consistent with the objectives as follows:

The proposed development provides for the construction of a standard and well proportioned upper level addition. The development has been site specifically designed and will positively contribute to the streetscape and enhance the streetscape relative to the existing built form on the site. A general upgrade of the existing built form will also occur.

The proposed development assists in establishing the desired future character for the locality.

The proposed development is well contained on-site and will not result in significant adverse amenity impacts on adjoining properties.

The proposed development provides an appropriate low-density infill development and contemporary construction.

There has been a progressive change in the built character of the locality with a number of older style dwellings being replaced with new contemporary two and three level dwellings.

The proposed height scale and massing of the development is considered to be compatible with the evolving and desired built character of the area.

The height, mass and scale of the development is compatible with that of other development in the locality.

The design solution respects the development pattern of the locality (the spatial arrangement of buildings having regard to side, rear and street building setbacks) maintaining the rhythm of the street.

It is expected that the Council will obtain the concurrence of the Director-General as required (possibly through delegation).

The proposed height encroachment does not result in any significant view loss, loss of privacy or overshadowing in the context of the site.

There are no adverse heritage impacts associated with the proposed development. The height and scale of the development is typical within the residential context.

Standard floor to ceiling heights are proposed inclusive of a standard roof pitch.

Having regard to the above the proposal is consistent with the objectives of the height control and the objectives of the zone.

(b) the concurrence of the Director-General has been obtained.

Comment:

It is expected that the Council will obtain the concurrence of the Director-General as required (possibly through delegation).

In deciding whether to grant concurrence, the Secretary must consider: whether contravention of the development standard raises any matter of significance for State or regional environmental planning, and the public benefit of maintaining the development standard, and any other matters required to be taken into consideration by the Secretary before granting concurrence.

Comment:

The proposed variation does not raise any matter of significance for State or regional environmental planning.

There is no public benefit that would be achieved by maintaining the development standard or compromised by approving the building as proposed.

Conclusion

No adverse matters arise in respect of the above considerations.

In view of the above, the proposed variation from the development standard is reasonable in this instance. A typical pitched roof profile is proposed maintaining a consistent built form with other dwellings in the vicinity and appropriately addressing site circumstances.

Should you require any further information please contact the undersigned.

Yours Faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nigel White". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "Nigel" and the last name "White" clearly legible.

Nigel White
Bachelor of Applied Science (Environmental Planning)