

From: Brendan Donohoe
Sent: 27/10/2023 5:30:12 PM
To: Council Northernbeaches Mailbox
Subject: TRIMMED Freshwater SLSC Dining Precinct
Attachments: FRESHWATER FINE DINING.pdf;

Please find attached Surfrider Foundation Submission for proposed commercialisation of Freshwater SLSC.

Apologies for missing the deadline by a day but only just discovered the proposition.

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Brendan Donohoe
President Northern Beaches Branch
Surfrider Foundation Australia




NORTHERN BEACHES BRANCH

October 2023-Freshwater SLSC “Upgrade”

Surfrider Foundation objects in the strongest possible terms to the proposal outlined for the Freshwater SLSC for the following reasons.

SLSCs exist in the privileged and highly prized but very vulnerable positions they do on the coast and were allowed for the PURPOSE OF PROVIDING SURF LIFESAVING ACTIVITIES. These activities DO NOT INCLUDE

- 1.-raising money for council through commercial leases
- 2.-providing fine dining experiences with an ocean view for the paying public
- 3.-serving alcohol to paying customers as a core business
- 4.-spending a fortune of public money

developing plans that many regard as a repulsive commercialisation of public space

5.-developing commercial premises where NO OTHER ENTITY OTHER THAN A COUNCIL/SLSC could possibly believe it would be acceptable

6.-proposing a huge new commercial development with no social license and no reasonable consultation befitting the obvious change of use of a public place

7.-proposing a huge new commercial development with sophisticated plans and studies that have been detailed to a point where the clear expectation is APPROVAL.

The expense of developing this proposal to date is considerable, estimated to be at least in the many tens of thousands of dollars, while at the same time SLSC's have the "charity hand out" suggesting there needs to be public support or "kids will drown".

8.-stacking a "massive change of use" new commercial attraction on an already stressed carpark designed to accommodate beach

users NOT DINERS...surfers can't surf in restaurants so why must diners be provided ocean views?

9.-contemplating an extraordinarily expensive proposition using public money, land and building without so much of a disclosed hint of return on investment or cost/benefit analysis. (To be fair, it seems to be yet another case of it's all just public money so who cares – right, it's certainly not the first time vast expense on very ill considered surf club developments has occurred, some happily never eventuating)

If Council/Club wish to develop OUR land and OUR buildings with OUR money into commercial premises and have been clearly working towards this end since at least 2016/17, far more EARLY CONSULTATION and PUBLIC INPUT is required before plans are “firmed up” to the extent we see here as the development of these plans comes at a huge public cost in both amenity and monetary terms.

There is NO NEED for this development, no call for it apart from a select few in the Club and Council and yet considerable expense has already been incurred where so many more worthy coastal and other public works are required.

Brendan Donohoe
President
Surfrider Foundation Australia
Northern Beaches Branch

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