

**From:** [Wolter Paul Van Eck](#)  
**To:** [Planning Panels Mailbox](#)  
**Subject:** Land and Environment Court Proceedings No. 2023/109048 (DA2021/2173) – Written Submission Supporting Approval of Application for alterations and additions and coastal protection works to Newport Surf Life Saving Club  
**Date:** Monday, 2 December 2024 4:34:59 PM

---

To the Panel Secretariat

**The Newport Surf Life Saving Club is classified as an Essential Service Facility (as gazetted as part of the Emergency Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2018)**

- During patrol hours for the last 10 years the Club effected the following recused and preventative actions:
  - 621 Rescues
  - 10,500 preventative actions
- Any proposal to relocate the Clubhouse to another location is ill-founded and not based on sound technical or engineering facts. The amended reports prepared by the Council's expert consultants as part of the current proceedings demonstrate that any such relocation of the Club's facilities cannot be accommodated due to a range of environmental and physical constraints, not to mention the potential loss of public parkland or parking resulting from a relocated building footprint.
- Any relocation of the existing Clubhouse would create a dangerous precedent for the beachgoing public and would severely hinder the Newport Surf Club's ability to undertake its emergency services operations. Beach safety surveillance and the Club's ability to rapidly deploy emergency rescue craft during a rescue event would be dangerously compromised.
- Any relocation of the public amenities and change rooms that form part of the Clubhouse complex away from their logical beachside location would create further safety and inconvenience issues for the beach going public by forcing young kids or elderly/disabled citizens to traverse a busy carpark to gain access to remotely located amenities.
- The proposed renovation and rationalisation of the Club's facilities creates the opportunity to adequately address WHS issues associated with the ageing building and bring it into line with current-day compliance and safety standards which protects our volunteer Members and the general beachgoing public using the clubhouse building.
- The existing clubhouse building is not Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant. Many areas within the existing building are not accessible due to floor-level changes that prohibit equitable access and the existing lift access to the building is very poorly located. The proposed renovation and rationalisation of the Club's facilities creates the opportunity to adequately address non-compliant disabled and equitable access aspects of the existing Clubhouse and bring the building up to modern-day accessibility compliance standards.
- The existing clubhouse has evolved organically over the last 90odd years without a rational master plan. This has resulted in the current building being dysfunctional and inefficient in several areas and this restricts and often hampers the Club's operations.
- The existing clubhouse is used for a variety of community and broader SLS Branch uses

in addition to servicing the Club's Life Saving needs. The inability of the existing building to cater for several different activities at any one time severely restricts the operations of the Club and other community/SLS Branch groups wishing to utilise the Clubhouse.

**The Newport Surf Life Saving Club undertakes an extremely valuable service to the local community. It deserves contemporary, safe, and compliant facilities commensurate with its contribution to and its standing within the local community.**

We urge the Court to now approve the Club's DA proposal as a matter of priority.

Regards

Kind regards

Paul van Eck Duymaer van Twist



P.O Box 1128  
Mona Vale NSW 1660  
Australia