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RE: REV2021/0006 - 181 Allambie Road ALLAMBIE HEIGHTS NSW 2100

To whom it may concern

RE.: 181 Allambie Hights, revision application no 2021/0006

I am strongly against the proposal to built 24 independent living units at 181Allambie Hights for the following reasons:

Side effects of the proposed building

1. Erosion and pollution

The proposed building site includes removing about 40 old trees, which are holding the top soil, filter rainwater and prevent erosion. Foliage on trees acts as a barrier to soften how the rain hits the soil. Rainwater that hits leaves on a tree first goes down branches and the trunk before getting absorbed into the soil. The proposed building will invite a large area to problems of erosion and pollution. Removing these trees will let all water run straight downhill into the Manly Dam area, polluting the creek and subsequently damage the water quality. This will affect swimming in the dam, and even more the habitat of animals that depend on high quality water, including fish, crayfish, water dragons etc.

2. We need to prepare for the future

Manly Dam is the largest example of an independent water supply system within the Sydney Metropolitan Area. It is heritage listed. The reservoir and dam was added to the New South Wales State Heritage Register on 18 November 1999. Under section 170 of the Act, government agencies in New South Wales are required to look after their assets on behalf of the community - and not private interests. Crown land is for the people of NSW to use and enjoy, and not to support private organisations who's aim is to make a profit.

The dam is a rare remnant of an independent water supply system and the largest within the Sydney Metropolitan Area. A construction of this magnitude will have polluting implications downstream for the freshwater of Manly Dam and the Climbing Galaxias fish, via Curl Curl Creek (Category A Creek) - just below the proposed development. The Manly Dam area should be treated as a drinking water catchment area in case it might be needed for long periods of drought. Scientists have warned that we will experience high temperatures, draught, bushfires and flooding more often and for longer periods of time. For this reason alone the entire Manly Dam area with it's high water quality should be protected from any disturbance, reduction in size and possible pollution so it is protected and preserved for our future.

3. Wildlife

Wildlife populations in parks and reservoirs are increasingly vulnerable to impacts. The smaller the habitat becomes the more stressed animals become as they have to compete for food and tolerate closer proximity of human beings, noise and disruption of their daily life. Larger animals usually leave the area if possible which results in an imbalance in the biodiversity. Small animals, like rodents might increase in numbers leading to plundering food sources for indigenous animals and spreading uncontrollably. Nearby houses and gardens often introduce non-indigenous plants and "pests" to natural habitats, diminishing natural food supplies over time or attract other non-indigenous species that invade the area with ornamental garden plants seeding into the forest. Studies show how habitat changes and fragmentation affect wildlife populations and can over time destroy them. In addition the proposed 24 independent living units might attract new owners who move in with their cats and dogs who if unattended can have a huge impact on the existing population of native animals. Manly Dam Reserve provides an invaluable habitat for indigenous animals and rare plants, including the Mint bush, the Powerful Owl and Climbing Galaxias. Climbing Galaxias fish, that lives in the creek, it is the ONLY remaining population of Galaxias in Greater Sydney- following a 2020 study by scientist Sonya.

The proposed building site is an inappropriate development adjoining the War Memorial Park and creates a harmful precedent if approved. The Asset Protection Zone (APZ) relies upon land that is part of the War Memorial Park; based on outdated Fire Safety legislation. It is bush fire prone land - hence the need for APZ into Manly Dam and the existing environment; A construction of this magnitude will have polluting implications downstream for the freshwater of Manly Dam, the Climbing Galaxias fish, via Curl Curl Creek (Category A Creek) - just below the proposed development; The proposal has unreasonable impacts on the high value natural environment and should be rejected.

4. A vision for livable cities

We are missing a clear vision for a sustainable future, one that includes the protection of valuable pockets of healthy natural bush at all cost. We need to find a way to keep large cities livable and beautiful with clean air, water and bush rather than degrading its livability over time. Parks and green pockets in cities help to reduce heat in the summer and provide areas where people can relax and enjoy nature. Manly Dam has a rich Flora and Fauna and clean water. Its water catchment is important for ground water levels. People love being there for a great number of reasons, including sport activities, leisure, bird watching etc. Greener cities attract more people as quality of life rises with cleaner air and places to go to in order to refresh and detach for the busy lives. Since Corona many have left Sydney and moved to the countryside to be closer to a natural environment and away from crowded city life. The Great Plague of 1665 killed 70,000 Londoners, and those who could afford to leave fled the city, both 9/11 and the July 2005 London bombings saw a spike in interest in rural properties. This tendency continues with the pandemic and the effects it has had on jobs and the economy, and not only in Sydney. Former mental health commissioner and head of the Brain and Mind Centre Ian Hickie told SBS News the pandemic was the "perfect storm" for suicide. What will become of large cities if there is no attraction left to live there, if they in fact become breeding places for disease? It is time to step back and ask: what do we expect from high quality city living? How can we maintain the quality of life we have at this point in time - and in Sydney? What is our responsibility when changing the landscape of a city in regard to the wellbeing of their community? No existing park, no reserve nor bush land should be cut into, rather we should create more space for parks and introduce laws to protect what is in place to keep cities sustainable and livable places. New South Wales are required to look after their assets on behalf of the community and Manly Dam is at stake here!