

From: **Stuart Laurence** [REDACTED] >

Date: Tue, 16 Nov 2021 at 16:32

Subject: Market Lane Manly - DA2021/2065

Dear Candy,

I am adding our voice at Oakberry to the concerns expressed by fellow business owner, Vikrant Joshi, about the proposal to make the temporary open air bar in Market Lane a permanent presence.

This facility was originally a temporary bar, but it now appears to be permanent, without any consideration of the local business owners who have been impacted by its presence.

The fence that surrounds this open air bar sits right in the middle of public space. It extends right across the frontage of a number of businesses, including our own business, Oakberry, thereby restricting the easy flow of pedestrians and customers. On the Oakberry side, the distance between the fence and the shop frontage is very narrow and not at all conducive to free-flowing pedestrian traffic, nor easy access to our shop for our customers.

For the past year, we have had the temporary bar's storage facility - an old, unsightly, converted shipping container - placed right in front of Oakberry, thus impacting our shop's image and restricting and obscuring the view of our shop from across the plaza.

The area that the bar and its fence take up is very large and it sits right in the middle of the otherwise attractive central plaza area outside the library. The question should be asked: why is a private, fenced-off bar, very large in area, allowed to sit so prominently in the middle of this public pedestrian walkway? Moreover, why has the perimeter of the fenced-off area been allowed to squeeze the thoroughfare to existing businesses?

One of the delightful features of Market Lane is the large open plaza where the public can sit and relax. To have a large bar with a surrounding fence now occupying much of that area seems completely at odds with the open nature of the very attractive pedestrian thoroughfare that characterises Market Lane.

The local cafes and other businesses are very concerned about this and we have also noted that many of our customers feel concerned about the obstruction to the public thoroughfare. It is not good for the area because it allows a private business to dominate open public space and it is not good for our businesses to be squeezed by the perimeter of the fenced-off area. We are talking with other business owners and our intention is to

object to the development application and prepare submissions to the application process.

We do hope that you understand our concerns and even share our view of the intrusive nature of this facility. We look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible.

Regards,

--

**Stuart Laurence**  
**Partnership & Sponsorship**  
Mobile [REDACTED]