

948 Barrenjoey Road,
Palm Beach NSW 2108

26 March 2024

Northern Beaches Council
Planning Department
Via email: Nicholas.England@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir,

**DA2023/1658 – Replacement & extension of inclined passenger lift
948 Barrenjoey Road, Palm Beach (the property)**

1. In April 2017 my husband and I purchased the property, which came with an inclined passenger lift (**inclinator**) manufactured by P.R. King, one of the earliest models from the 1960's.

2. Design Challenges

The inclinator stops at each endpoint, lacking the capability to have additional landings programmed. It was installed to connect Barrenjoey Road to a point midway between the ground and first floor levels of the property. At the Barrenjoey Road end, access requires climbing 6 stairs to enter the inclinator (see item 1) while at the upper end:

- a) Access to the ground floor involved descending 9 stairs; and
- b) Access to the upper level by ascending approximately 8 stairs in total.

Item 1



Item 2



3. In May 2017, I fractured my right ankle in the backyard, highlighting the impractical layout of the inclinator, especially for individuals with mobility issues. The difficulties of accessing and exiting the inclinator via stairs became more evident following this incident.
4. In early 2019, my mother suffered a stroke that affected the left side of her body, necessitating the use of a walker. Regrettably, the restricted lower access point made it impossible for us to assist her onto the inclinator. Additionally, the placement of the controller (see Item 3), directly obstructing the path of access, added further complications when assistance was needed.
5. In June 2020, I fractured my left ankle, and suffered the same difficulties set out above with the current inclinator.



Item 3

6. In July 2021, my father, who was staying with us during the COVID pandemic, experienced a health issue that necessitated an ambulance. The paramedics encountered challenges in moving him from the upper floor of our property due to the narrow internal staircase and the difficult entry and exit points of the inclinator.
7. In August 2023, I fractured my left ankle and had to deal with the recurring challenges accessing and exiting the inclinator via stairs. It was obvious we needed to remedy these ongoing issues.

8. Upper access/exit over neighbouring property

Currently, the property's upper access/exit point requires one to travel over the neighbouring property, as indicated in item 4. While this arrangement has been in place for over six decades, it is not ideal and is of concern to both property owners. The existing setup causes anxiety and distress for our neighbour, Mr Woog of 946 Barrenjoey Road, particularly when items need to be transported to and from the upper level. Despite these challenges, maintaining the current access route is necessary as a suitable alternative method has yet to be approved.

Item 4



9. Conclusion

Replacing the current inclinator with the new proposed inclinator will solve issues related to entry and exit points, ensuring that they are stair-free, offering improved accessibility and located solely on our property. Additionally, the updated inclinator will produce less noise and offer increased privacy, thereby reducing disturbances for our neighbour. We are confident that approving the replacement inclinator and associated works is in the best interests of all parties.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen Hackett'.

Karen Hackett for Karen Hackett & Grant Richards