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16/11/2024

MR Darren Brown
19 Duke ST
Forestville NSW 2087

RE: DA2024/1303 - 11 / 0 Melwood Avenue FORESTVILLE NSW 2087

The Forestville RSL club is the only family club of its kind in our area. It's where we meet other families after a game of soccer on the oval, it's where kids can play outside while families enjoy a meal and a drink, it's where the whole community goes on ANZAC day, it's where we meet for birthdays, anniversaries. It's the center of our community.

It's not a place where the community go to throw money in Pokie Machines.

Building a large retirement village, only to serve them with a casino type gambling floor is not benefiting the community or the retirees.

This is a significant concern to this community.

The club is currently badly managed and has been for many years. The quality of food is poor, and the main reason it doesn't do a thriving trade more frequently. There is a large space upstairs which could be utilised for so many things - like serving the teenage community, who have nothing outside of sportsfields, but it is left empty. For many years the club resisted welcoming children, and it has only recently made them welcome by opening one of the bowling greens for a mixed use space, and it is thriving. There's a real buzz there now, and a vital space for the community.

The fact that this is a private club planning on using the RSL brand name to build a large Pokie area, which goes against the gambling policy of NSW RSL, who do not support Pokies is disgraceful.

If approved, this new club will be damaging to the community and have devastating effects on families.

The Northern Beaches Council has a policy to reduce the harm of Poker machine gambling in the community, and these plans are very much at odds with that policy.