



Subject:



Re: Concerns Regarding the Proposed Development Plan for Forestville RSL (Application Number: DA2024/1303)

Date:

Monday, 28 April 2025 1:51:33 PM

Dear Clr. Heinz,

I am writing to express my strong concern about the proposed development plan involving the construction of 55 senior living units on the grounds of the Forest-Killarney RSL Club.

From the submissions I've reviewed, it's clear there is a notable lack of community support for this proposal. The plan benefits a limited group—55 to 110 individuals who can afford these units—while negatively impacting over 9,000 members in a broader catchment of 50,000 residents. These members, along with their families, will lose access to one of the very few remaining open spaces where children can play and adults can relax, socialize, and enjoy the beautiful surroundings of the rugby and soccer playing fields.

It's worth recalling that Ian Thompson (CEO) previously suggested the NSW state government may eventually place restrictions on gambling, which would in turn reduce related revenue. If this is the case, why is there a focus on expanding gambling areas instead of developing alternative revenue-generating activities for the club?

Furthermore, once the revenue from the sale of these 55 units is spent, what then? Will there be further developments and even less space for the broader membership?

Considering the current housing crisis in Australia, it's also fair to ask whether these 55 high-end units could be replaced with 150 one-bedroom, entry-level apartments aimed at first-home buyers. These would serve a far greater portion of the community.

Additionally, by incorporating a mix of restaurants, bars, and practical retail like supermarkets, the club could attract a larger and more active demographic. Young families and working adults are more likely to use and spend money at such facilities than a small, older group.

Has the membership been meaningfully consulted on the future of the club? To my knowledge, no effort has been made to engage members in this discussion. The removal of outdoor areas—first by ceasing support for bowling and now by building residential units—feels like a calculated reduction of member-accessible space.

No effort appears to have been made to rejuvenate or grow the bowling community. Other clubs have succeeded in attracting younger members through barefoot bowling and inclusive community events. Why hasn't this model been explored?

Lastly, a look at Northern Beaches demographics underscores my point:

- 23.4% are aged 0–17
- 7% are aged 18–24
- 34.5% are aged 25–49
- 47.6% are aged 25–59
- Only 11.9% are aged 60–85+

These figures highlight that the area's population is skewed toward families and younger adults—not seniors. I believe the club has fundamentally misread the needs and desires of its membership.

I urge you to reconsider this proposal in light of the broader community's needs and long-term sustainability of the club.

Yours Sincerely,

John Gilmour
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Sent from my iPhone