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04/09/2024

MR Douglas Menzies D
3 / 10 Kalinya ST
Newport NSW 2106

RE: DA2021/2173 - 394 Barrenjoey Road NEWPORT NSW 2106

I moved to Newport in 1992 and joined the Newport Surf Life Saving Club (SLSC) in 1995, where my children over the years became part of the Nippers program and to this day are intimately involved in the Surf Club. I became a Nippers Age Manager in 1996, going on to become a Patrolling Volunteer Member in 1998 and subsequently took on many roles within the Club, which included many years as President and now a proud Life Member. The Newport SLSC is not only a vital voluntary 'Emergency Service' and for the past so many years been a key community hub.

The current Newport SLSC was opened in 1932 and is in no way fit for purpose for a 21st century 'Emergency Service' consisting of nearly 1,000 members with many of our members risking their lives to keep the community and most of whom they have never met.

To not allow the Clubhouse to stay in its current position 'on the beach' will put lives at risk as there have been countless rescues conducted by members out of patrolling hours who have been on the veranda and spotted swimmers in trouble. Moving the location to off the beach is a danger.

The club is in the best position it can be in. It is situated in front of the safest part of the beach to swim and where residents and visitors will exit the village to enter the beach. This position is also outside the typical flood zone when heavy rain falls.

Those who oppose this location offer no suitable alternative that does not put lives at risk.

Those who oppose the coastal protection measures ignore the need to protect the club and the valuable infrastructure behind it: the basketball court, the children's playground, and the main road to Avalon and beyond. If you don't protect the club, where will we draw the line?

I strongly disagree with the Sydney North Planning Panel (SNPP) refusal of the Newport SLSC's Club Renovations DA and support the Newport Surf Life Saving Club's proposed Clubhouse renovations for the following reasons:

- The proposed amendments to the Main Gear Shed access and eastern/northern concourse changes will not adversely impact NSLSC's operations and provide additional mitigation measures to protect the existing and new portions of the building in the event of a significant future storm event.
- We understand that NBC Council and NSLSC Representatives have worked closely with the Council's Coastal Engineering experts to develop a functional and effective solution to mitigate potential future coastal and wave inundation risks identified in the existing Heritage Clubhouse building and the proposed newly renovated portions of the building.
- NBC, as the elected Council, has fully supported and sponsored the Newport SLSC's Club Renovations DA on behalf of the wider community and the surf club. As a local resident/community member, we object to the SNPP usurping the Council's responsibility to reasonably maintain critical emergency services facility and an important community asset.

- The decision to deny the Council the ability to install coastal protection works in front of the existing heritage-listed Newport SLSC Clubhouse will result in the ultimate potential destruction of this vital community asset and the traditional home of the Newport Surf Club since the 1930s.
- The amended DA proposal incorporates necessary coastal engineering protection measures for the existing Clubhouse, which must be undertaken as a priority to avoid the potential for significant damage or the possible destruction of our Clubhouse due to a significant storm event. These coastal protection works are essential to maintain public safety and are required regardless of whether the Clubhouse is renovated and should be undertaken as soon as practically possible.
- The Newport Surf Life Saving Club is classified as an Essential Service Facility (as gazetted as part of the Emergency Services Legislation Amendment Bill 2018)
- During patrol hours for the last ten years, the Club affected the following recused and preventative actions:
 - 621 Rescues
 - 10,500 preventative actions
- The SNPP's proposition that the Clubhouse can be relocated to another location is ill-founded and not based on sound technical or engineering facts. The reports prepared by the Council's expert consultants, as part of the DA review package, clearly demonstrate that any such relocation of the Club's facilities faces significant constraints due to a range of environmental and physical constraints, not to mention the potential loss of public parkland or parking resulting from a relocated building footprint.
- The SNP's proposition that the Clubhouse can be relocated to another location is devoid of common sense and creates a dangerous precedent for the beachgoing public.
- Any relocation of the existing Clubhouse (even if feasible) would severely hinder the Newport Surf Club's ability to undertake its emergency services operations. Beach safety surveillance and the club's ability to rapidly deploy emergency rescue craft during a rescue event would be dangerously compromised.
- Any relocation of the public amenities and change rooms that form part of the Clubhouse complex away from their logical beachside location would create further safety and inconvenience issues for the beachgoing public. Imagine young kids or elderly/disabled citizens having to traverse a busy carpark to gain access to remotely located amenities.
- Due to the age and haphazardly planned nature of the current building, several pedestrian and user conflicts have evolved, creating a range of work health & safety risks to the Club's members and the public. The proposed renovation and rationalisation of the Club's facilities creates the opportunity to adequately address WHS issues associated with ageing building and bring it into line with current-day compliance and safety standards.
- The existing clubhouse building is not Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant. Many areas within the existing building are not accessible due to floor-level changes that prohibit equitable access. Additionally, the existing lift access to the building is very poorly located, and the Club/Council have had ongoing issues with the existing lift's operation and maintenance. The proposed renovation and rationalisation of the Club's facilities create the opportunity to adequately address non-compliant disabled and equitable access aspects of the existing Clubhouse and bring the building up to modern-day accessibility compliance standards.
- The Newport Surf Life Saving Club undertakes an extremely valuable service to the local community. It deserves contemporary, safe, and compliant facilities commensurate with its contribution to and its standing within the local community.
- The existing clubhouse has evolved organically over the last 90-odd years without a rational master plan. This has resulted in the current building being dysfunctional and inefficient in several areas, which restricts and often hampers the Club's operations.

- The existing clubhouse is used for a variety of community and broader SLS Branch uses in addition to servicing the Club's Life Saving needs. The inability of the existing building to cater for several different activities at any one time severely restrict the operations of the Club and other community/SLS Branch groups wishing to utilise the Clubhouse.
- Parts of the existing building are dilapidated, dysfunctional and in urgent need of repair.
- The proposed Clubhouse renovations will provide the following benefits which have been highlighted in previous submissions.