

Livia Kekwick

From:
Sent: Monday, 13 December 2021 9:21 AM
To: Planning Panels - Northern Beaches
Subject: DA2021/1620 Harbord Hotel

Categories: NBLPP

To Whom it May Concern,

We are close neighbors of the Harbord Hotel and I am writing to provide feedback and support of this development application based on our experience thus far living within close proximity to the venue.

Though we are less than 100m from the HH at 7 Charles Street, since the reopening of the venue following the initial renovations we have not experienced any noticeable increase in noise levels (or frankly any other negative impact). Quite the opposite actually, noise levels from the venue seem to be much better contained and managed than when the establishment was under prior ownership. Previously, and on weekends in particular, the noise levels from the pub would penetrate into our upstairs bedrooms. We have two small children and this would often be a nuisance during their early bedtimes. This is no longer an issue.

I recently visited the venue on an evening during which there was live music. Despite very high noise levels within the venue (we unfortunately had to leave half way through) I was amazed at just how well the noise was contained within the venue, and once inside our home which is essentially right across the street, we could not hear it at all. I was impressed with the measures the management has taken to manage the decibel levels, including additional staff just to man two sets of doors upon leaving to ensure the noise is not directly exposed.

We do, however, have to contend with noise and music from parties at the Freshie beach park, which are not monitored or contained at all.

The Harbord Hotel management has already demonstrated a commitment to securing noise levels within the new venue, and I believe that same commitment will be applied to the proposed upstairs development and that management will continue to engage with the community to ensure the measures are effective and satisfactory.

Additionally, the Freshwater Beach area is an extremely popular beach, particularly on the weekends as is the park for gatherings - both day and night. I have not observed any noticeable uptick in foot or vehicle traffic due to the reopening of the Harbord Hotel that could be contributed directly, it is simply a busy area regardless and both Moore and Charles are busy streets regardless. The proposal would only result in a modest increase in capped patrons, and the increased parking and operation of a shuttle minibus would address this directly, as evidenced in the associated survey conducted by traffic planning experts.

Lastly, prior to the reopening of the venue, our residence would consistently have empty bottles and cans thrown in the front yard from people leaving the unmonitored beach park. Since the Harbord Hotel has reopened and employed security staff on the corner of Moore & Charles St, the occurrence of this has nearly ceased entirely.

I believe with the proposed additions, management will continue to add to the vibrance and local economy of the community without any material adverse impact.

Also note, I will be unable to attend the planning panel and would like to nominate Jason Hatvany from 36a Kooloora Freshwater as my spokesperson and to speak on my behalf.

Thank you,
Mike

