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Subject: Online Submission

21/09/2020

MS Christine Del Gallo
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Manly Vale NSW 2093
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RE: DA2020/1097 - 0 Campbell Parade MANLY VALE NSW 2093

Submission for DA2020/1097 Passmore Reserve Campbell Pde Manly Vale
Part Lot 2743 DP 752038
Additions to Sportsfield Lighting

Objection

Northern Beaches Council,

I write in relation to the proposed erection of new lighting in Passmore Reserve, Manly Vale.

As Principal of Northern Beaches Secondary College Mackellar Girls Campus, I welcome the opportunity to respond and make comment on the proposed lighting of Passmore Reserve.

Whatever happens at Passmore Reserve has a great impact on Mackellar Girls and is of great interest to the school, considering that the school directly faces the whole length of the Reserve. We are the Reserve's largest neighbour, and so are affected by any proposal of change to Passmore Reserve.

I have grave concerns and am vehemently opposed to the lighting proposal. My main concerns about the lighting are fourfold:

1. The school conducts many evening events in our School Hall on Campbell Pde throughout the year. Each usually involves whole year groups of 250 students, therefore up to 250 parent cars to be parked in the street, plus teachers' cars - we have no night parking available in the school grounds. Parents must rely on street parking for a school of 1 300 students. If night time team training or competitions are facilitated by lighting Passmore Reserve, then that will make it impossible for the school community for parking. The lighting will create even greater traffic congestion and noise, given that parking spaces are already at a premium. We already have difficulties with school events coinciding with sporting events at Passmore Reserve, and if this use of the reserve was extended to continue to a later time, this conflict will be severely exacerbated.

It is difficult to believe that anyone who has experienced the drastic traffic and parking congestion in Campbell Pde and its insufferable impact on local residents, the school and those in vehicles when Passmore Reserve is used for sport, would consider it appropriate to make it worse for longer periods, on each or most days of the week, by lighting the reserve at night.

2. There is also the reality that team sports' loud, incessant, overbearing noise, particularly from football with constant shouting and screaming from players, coaches and spectators, will greatly disturb our ceremonies, information events, musical performance nights and drama theatre nights. Our most important school events will be adversely affected by noise from Passmore Reserve.

On every Mondays and Wednesday, classes for Years 11 and 12 continue until 6.00 p.m. Again noise from Passmore Reserve would adversely affect the teaching and learning of our HSC students. In fact, this proposed night time use of the reserve could be quite disastrous for us.

3. There will always be times when the lighting is on, and no intended sporting activity is occurring, for various reasons. The lighting will then encourage antisocial gatherings and resultant antisocial behaviour, vandalism, noise and damage to the reserve and school. Graffiti and vandalism that occurs on the weekends and some evenings have increased over time, and I am concerned that providing lit, somewhat isolated gathering spots for adolescents at night, which are unsupervised, is paving the way for more destruction to the school and our neighbours. Even when sport is happening, the summer sheds and playground area in the north-west corner of Passmore Reserve will become a haven for congregating and loitering teenagers if the grounds are lit.

4. Lighting would allow weekend sport on Passmore Reserve to commence at 8.00 am and continue for over 13 hours, until curfew, with more of the same five nights a week. The unbearable noise, traffic congestion, air pollution, hoon driving and tooting will create a diminution of lifestyle for residents. Desirability to live in the area will be downgraded considerably, which will adversely affect the school and its surrounds.

In 2010 when lighting of Passmore Reserve was proposed, I expressed my concern about probable outcomes of having Passmore Reserve well lit at night. Mr Kevin Short, DA Officer at Warringah Council informed me that any activities that occurred in the park as a result of the lighting was totally irrelevant to the decision to erect the lighting. If there was a negative impact on Mackellar Girls or local residents or the park itself as a result of the lighting, that had nothing to do with any decision about the actual lighting. I must say, I found that perspective to be perplexing and confounding, and left me very concerned about fairness and transparency and listening to the community's voice in this process.

This new Council must work to support and benefit the local residents and community. Care for the community is paramount, as is due process that is intelligent and honourable.

I am a great supporter of sport. Mackellar Girls has been the Champion Sports School in all of Sydney North for the past two years. We have innumerable students who represent in State, National and International teams and as a school, we do all we can to foster a love of sport, physical activity and well-being. My intention is not to hinder participation in healthy activities. However the proposed night lighting of Passmore Reserve can only be to the detriment of Mackellar Girls, a school of over 1400 residents and the largest school on the Northern Beaches, which will be most adversely affected by night lighting. I point out the existence of Nolans Reserve, which has 6 playing fields as opposed to the much smaller Passmore Reserve. There is likely to be far less objection and much less impact on the neighbouring properties when these fields are night lit instead of Passmore Reserve.

Sincerely

Christine Del Gallo
Principal
Northern Beaches Secondary College Mackellar Girls Campus
21 September 2020