

15<sup>th</sup> August 2021

**Clause 4.6 variation request – Height of buildings  
Alterations and additions to the existing first floor and attic levels to  
accommodate bar/function and recording studio floor space and  
associated amenities  
29 – 31 Moore Road, Freshwater**

**1.0 Introduction**

This clause 4.6 variation has been prepared having regard to the Land and Environment Court judgements in the matters of *Wehbe v Pittwater Council* [2007] NSWLEC 827 (*Wehbe*) at [42] – [48], *Four2Five Pty Ltd v Ashfield Council* [2015] NSWCA 248, *Initial Action Pty Ltd v Woollahra Municipal Council* [2018] NSWLEC 118, *Baron Corporation Pty Limited v Council of the City of Sydney* [2019] NSWLEC 61, and *RebelMH Neutral Bay Pty Limited v North Sydney Council* [2019] NSWCA 130.

**2.0 Warringah Local Environmental Plan 2011 (WLEP)**

**2.1 Clause 4.3 - Height of buildings**

Pursuant to Clause 4.3 of Warringah Local Environmental Plan 2011 (WLEP) the height of a building on the subject land is not to exceed 8.5 metres in height. The objectives of this control are as follows:

- (a) *to ensure that buildings are compatible with the height and scale of surrounding and nearby development,*
- (b) *to minimise visual impact, disruption of views, loss of privacy and loss of solar access,*
- (c) *to minimise any adverse impact of development on the scenic quality of Warringah's coastal and bush environments,*
- (d) *to manage the visual impact of development when viewed from public places such as parks and reserves, roads and community facilities.*

**Building height** is defined as follows:

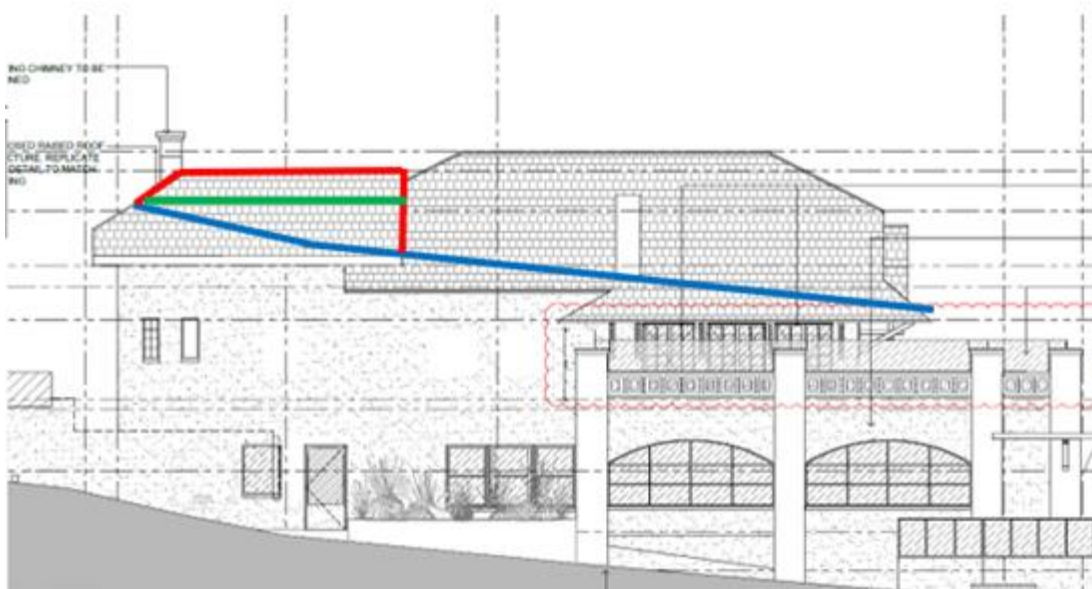
***building height (or height of building)** means the vertical distance between ground level (existing) and the highest point of the building, including plant and lift overruns, but excluding communication devices, antennae, satellite dishes, masts, flagpoles, chimneys, flues and the like.*

**Ground level (existing)** is defined as follows:

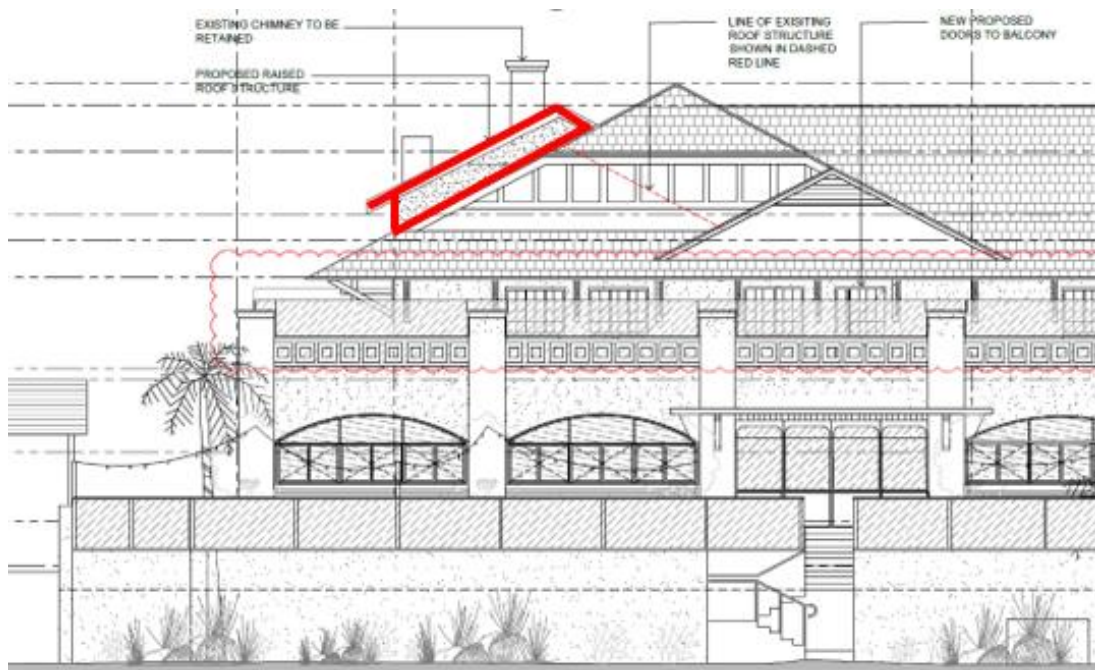
**ground level (existing)** means the existing level of a site at any point.

It has been determined that the raise roof element in the south-eastern corner of the building will have a maximum height above ground level existing, measured at its ridgeline, of between 9.8 metres at its southern end and 10.7 metres at its northern end. This represents a non-compliance of between 2.2 metres (25%) and 1.3 metres (15%). The building height breaching elements are depicted in Figures 1, 2, 3 and 4 below and over page.

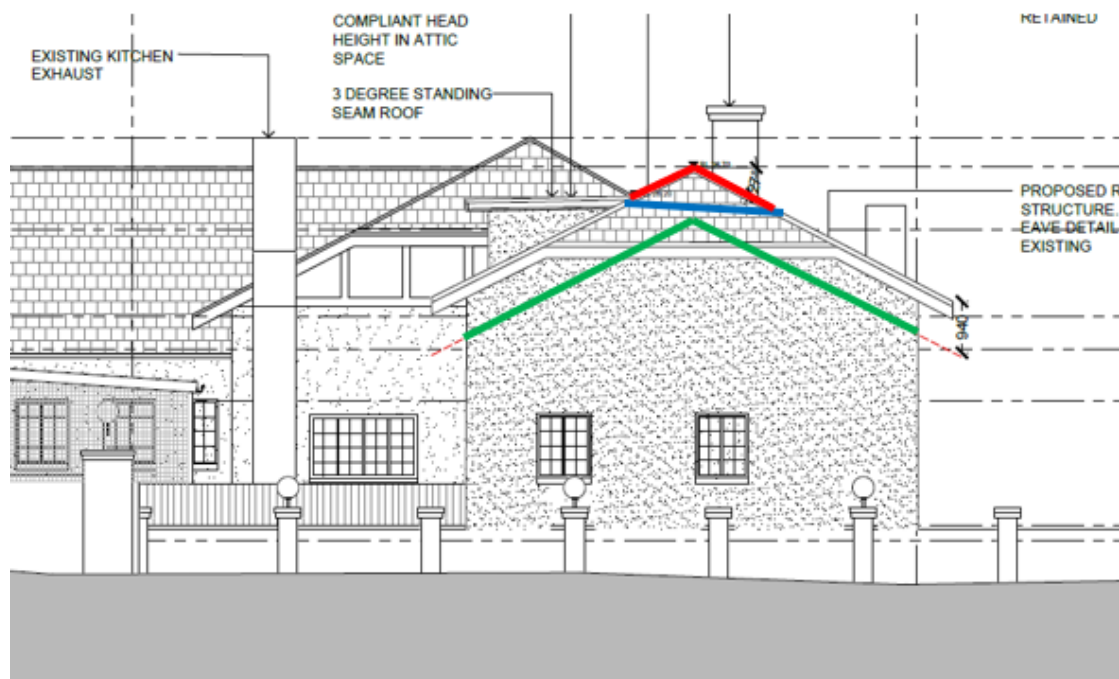
We note that the existing ridgeline in this location has been increased by 950mm to accommodate the lift shaft and associated overrun providing disabled access to the attic level of the development.



**Figure 1** – Plan extract eastern elevation showing the height non-compliance based on ground level (existing). The blue line shows the 8.5 metre height standard, the red line the extent of proposed new works located above the height standard and the green line the existing building ridge height in this location.



**Figure 2** – Plan extract northern elevation showing the height non-compliance based on ground level (existing). The red line shows the extent of proposed new works located above the height standard as viewed from this elevation.



**Figure 3** – Plan extract southern elevation showing the height non-compliance based on ground level (existing). The blue line shows the 8.5 metre height standard, the red line the extent of proposed new works located above the height standard and the green line the existing building ridge line in this location.



**Figure 4** – Plan extract western elevation showing the height non-compliance based on ground level (existing). The blue line shows the 8.5 metre height standard, the red line the extent of proposed new works located above the height standard and the green line the existing building ridge line in this location.

We note that the areas of non-compliance are limited to the relatively small portion of roof form with the non-compliant building elements continuing to sit well below the height established by the balance of the building roof form.

## 2.2 Clause 4.6 – Exceptions to Development Standards

Clause 4.6(1) of WLEP provides:

- (1) *The objectives of this clause are:*
- (a) *to provide an appropriate degree of flexibility in applying certain development standards to particular development, and*
  - (b) *to achieve better outcomes for and from development by allowing flexibility in particular circumstances.*

The decision of Chief Justice Preston in *Initial Action Pty Ltd v Woollahra Municipal Council* [2018] NSWLEC 118 (“Initial Action”) provides guidance in respect of the operation of clause 4.6 subject to the clarification by the NSW Court of Appeal in *RebelMH Neutral Bay Pty Limited v North Sydney Council* [2019] NSWCA 130 at [1], [4] & [51] where the Court confirmed that properly construed, a consent authority has to be satisfied that an applicant’s written request has in fact demonstrated the matters required to be demonstrated by cl 4.6(3).

*Initial Action* involved an appeal pursuant to s56A of the Land & Environment Court Act 1979 against the decision of a Commissioner. At [90] of *Initial Action* the Court held that:

*“In any event, cl 4.6 does not give substantive effect to the objectives of the clause in cl 4.6(1)(a) or (b). There is no provision that requires compliance with the objectives of the clause. In particular, neither cl 4.6(3) nor (4) expressly or impliedly requires that development that contravenes a development standard “achieve better outcomes for and from development”. If objective (b) was the source of the Commissioner’s test that non-compliant development should achieve a better environmental planning outcome for the site relative to a compliant development, the Commissioner was mistaken. Clause 4.6 does not impose that test.”*

The legal consequence of the decision in *Initial Action* is that clause 4.6(1) is not an operational provision and that the remaining clauses of clause 4.6 constitute the operational provisions.

Clause 4.6(2) of WLEP provides:

*Development consent may, subject to this clause, be granted for development even though the development would contravene a development standard imposed by this or any other environmental planning instrument. However, this clause does not apply to a development standard that is expressly excluded from the operation of this clause.*

This clause applies to the clause 4.3 WLEP Height of Buildings Development Standard.

Clause 4.6(3) of WLEP provides:

*Development consent must not be granted for development that contravenes a development standard unless the consent authority has considered a written request from the applicant that seeks to justify the contravention of the development standard by demonstrating:*

- (a) that compliance with the development standard is unreasonable or unnecessary in the circumstances of the case, and*
- (b) that there are sufficient environmental planning grounds to justify contravening the development standard.*



The proposed development does not comply with the height of buildings provision at 4.3 of WLEP which specifies a maximum building height however strict compliance is considered to be unreasonable or unnecessary in the circumstances of this case and there are considered to be sufficient environmental planning grounds to justify contravening the development standard.

The relevant arguments are set out later in this written request.

Clause 4.6(4) of WLEP provides:

*Development consent must not be granted for development that contravenes a development standard unless:*

- (a) the consent authority is satisfied that:*
  - (i) the applicant's written request has adequately addressed the matters required to be demonstrated by subclause (3), and*
  - (ii) the proposed development will be in the public interest because it is consistent with the objectives of the particular standard and the objectives for development within the zone in which the development is proposed to be carried out, and*
- (b) the concurrence of the Planning Secretary has been obtained.*

In *Initial Action* the Court found that clause 4.6(4) required the satisfaction of two preconditions ([14] & [28]).

The first precondition is found in clause 4.6(4)(a). That precondition requires the formation of two positive opinions of satisfaction by the consent authority. The first positive opinion of satisfaction (cl 4.6(4)(a)(i)) is that the applicant's written request has adequately addressed the matters required to be demonstrated by clause 4.6(3)(a)(i) (*Initial Action* at [25]).

The second positive opinion of satisfaction (cl 4.6(4)(a)(ii)) is that the proposed development will be in the public interest **because** it is consistent with the objectives of the development standard and the objectives for development of the zone in which the development is proposed to be carried out (*Initial Action* at [27]). The second precondition is found in clause 4.6(4)(b). The second precondition requires the consent authority to be satisfied that that the concurrence of the Secretary (of the Department of Planning and the Environment) has been obtained (*Initial Action* at [28]).

Under cl 64 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation* 2000, the Secretary has given written notice dated 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020, attached to the Planning Circular PS 18-003 issued on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020, to each consent authority, that it may assume the Secretary's concurrence for exceptions to development standards in respect of applications made under cl 4.6, subject to the conditions in the table in the notice.

Clause 4.6(5) of WLEP provides:

- (5) *In deciding whether to grant concurrence, the Director-General must consider:*
  - (a) *whether contravention of the development standard raises any matter of significance for State or regional environmental planning, and*
  - (b) *the public benefit of maintaining the development standard, and*
  - (c) *any other matters required to be taken into consideration by the Director-General before granting concurrence.*

As these proceedings are the subject of an appeal to the Land & Environment Court, the Court has the power under cl 4.6(2) to grant development consent for development that contravenes a development standard, if it is satisfied of the matters in cl 4.6(4)(a), without obtaining or assuming the concurrence of the Secretary under cl 4.6(4)(b), by reason of s 39(6) of the Court Act.

Nevertheless, the Court should still consider the matters in cl 4.6(5) when exercising the power to grant development consent for development that contravenes a development standard: *Fast Buck\$ v Byron Shire Council* (1999) 103 LGERA 94 at 100; *Wehbe v Pittwater Council* at [41] (*Initial Action* at [29]).

Clause 4.6(6) relates to subdivision and is not relevant to the development. Clause 4.6(7) is administrative and requires the consent authority to keep a record of its assessment of the clause 4.6 variation. Clause 4.6(8) is only relevant so as to note that it does not exclude clause 4.3 of WLEP from the operation of clause 4.6.

### 3.0 Relevant Case Law

In *Initial Action* the Court summarised the legal requirements of clause 4.6 and confirmed the continuing relevance of previous case law at [13] to [29]. In particular the Court confirmed that the five common ways of establishing that compliance with a development standard might be unreasonable and unnecessary as identified in *Wehbe v Pittwater Council (2007) 156 LGERA 446; [2007] NSWLEC 827* continue to apply as follows:

17. *The first and most commonly invoked way is to establish that compliance with the development standard is unreasonable or unnecessary because the objectives of the development standard are achieved notwithstanding non-compliance with the standard: Wehbe v Pittwater Council at [42] and [43].*
18. *A second way is to establish that the underlying objective or purpose is not relevant to the development with the consequence that compliance is unnecessary: Wehbe v Pittwater Council at [45].*
19. *A third way is to establish that the underlying objective or purpose would be defeated or thwarted if compliance was required with the consequence that compliance is unreasonable: Wehbe v Pittwater Council at [46].*
20. *A fourth way is to establish that the development standard has been virtually abandoned or destroyed by the Council's own decisions in granting development consents that depart from the standard and hence compliance with the standard is unnecessary and unreasonable: Wehbe v Pittwater Council at [47].*
21. *A fifth way is to establish that the zoning of the particular land on which the development is proposed to be carried out was unreasonable or inappropriate so that the development standard, which was appropriate for that zoning, was also unreasonable or unnecessary as it applied to that land and that compliance with the standard in the circumstances of the case would also be unreasonable or unnecessary: Wehbe v Pittwater Council at [48]. However, this fifth way of establishing that compliance with the development standard is unreasonable or unnecessary is limited, as explained in Wehbe v Pittwater Council at [49]-[51].*



*The power under cl 4.6 to dispense with compliance with the development standard is not a general planning power to determine the appropriateness of the development standard for the zoning or to effect general planning changes as an alternative to the strategic planning powers in Part 3 of the EPA Act.*

22. *These five ways are not exhaustive of the ways in which an applicant might demonstrate that compliance with a development standard is unreasonable or unnecessary; they are merely the most commonly invoked ways. An applicant does not need to establish all of the ways. It may be sufficient to establish only one way, although if more ways are applicable, an applicant can demonstrate that compliance is unreasonable or unnecessary in more than one way.*

The relevant steps identified in *Initial Action* (and the case law referred to in *Initial Action*) can be summarised as follows:

1. Is clause 4.3 of WLEP a development standard?
2. Is the consent authority satisfied that this written request adequately addresses the matters required by clause 4.6(3) by demonstrating that:
  - (a) compliance is unreasonable or unnecessary; and
  - (b) there are sufficient environmental planning grounds to justify contravening the development standard
3. Is the consent authority satisfied that the proposed development will be in the public interest because it is consistent with the objectives of clause 4.3 WLEP and the objectives for development for in the zone?
4. Has the concurrence of the Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environment been obtained?
5. Where the consent authority is the Court, has the Court considered the matters in clause 4.6(5) when exercising the power to grant development consent for the development that contravenes clause 4.3 of WLEP?

## 4.0 Request for variation

### 4.1 Is clause 4.3 of WLEP a development standard?

The definition of “development standard” at clause 1.4 of the EP&A Act includes a provision of an environmental planning instrument or the regulations in relation to the carrying out of development, being provisions by or under which requirements are specified or standards are fixed in respect of any aspect of that development, including, but without limiting the generality of the foregoing, requirements or standards in respect of:

- (c) *the character, location, siting, bulk, scale, shape, size, height, density, design or external appearance of a building or work,*

Clause 4.3 WLEP prescribes a height provision that seeks to control the height of certain development. Accordingly, clause 4.3 WLEP is a development standard.

### 4.2 Clause 4.6(3)(a) – Whether compliance with the development standard is unreasonable or unnecessary

The common approach for an applicant to demonstrate that compliance with a development standard is unreasonable or unnecessary are set out in *Wehbe v Pittwater Council* [2007] NSWLEC 827.

The first option, which has been adopted in this case, is to establish that compliance with the development standard is unreasonable and unnecessary because the objectives of the development standard are achieved notwithstanding non-compliance with the standard.

#### **Consistency with objectives of the height of buildings standard**

An assessment as to the consistency of the proposal when assessed against the objectives of the standard is as follows:

- (a) *to ensure that buildings are compatible with the height and scale of surrounding and nearby development,*

Comment: The consideration of building compatibility is dealt with in the Planning Principle established by the Land and Environment Court of New South Wales in the matter of *Project Venture Developments v Pittwater Council* [2005] NSWLEC 191. At paragraph 23 of the judgment Roseth SC provided the following commentary in relation to compatibility in an urban design context:

- 22 *There are many dictionary definitions of compatible. The most apposite meaning in an urban design context is capable of existing together in harmony. Compatibility is thus different from sameness. It is generally accepted that buildings can exist together in harmony without having the same density, scale or appearance, though as the difference in these attributes increases, harmony is harder to achieve.*

The question is whether the building height breaching elements contribute to the height and scale of the development to the extent that the resultant building forms will be incompatible with the height and scale of surrounding and nearby development. That is, will the non-compliant building height breaching elements result in a built form which is incapable of coexisting in harmony with surrounding and nearby development to the extent that it will appear inappropriate and jarring in a streetscape and urban design context.

In terms of the established built form circumstance on the subject property we note that the existing hotel building presents as a two story building with variable pitched roof form sitting above the level of Moore Road. The property as viewed in the round is depicted in Figures 5 and 6 below and over page.



**Figure 5** – Subject property as viewed from Moore Road



**Figure 6** – Subject property as viewed from Undercliff Road

Immediately surrounding development is residential in nature comprising a mixture of detached dwelling houses interspersed by dual occupancy and residential flat development. Freshwater Local Centre and Freshwater beach are located within short walking distance of the site.



**Figure 7** – Photograph depicting residential development located on the high side of Undercliff Road to the south of the subject site





**Figure 8** – Photograph depicting residential development located on the western side of Charles Street to the west of the subject site



**Figure 9** – Photograph depicting development located on the southern side of Moore Road to the east of the subject site

I note that the relatively minor increase in building height in the south-eastern corner of the building is not result in any significant increase in actual or perceived height, bulk or scale as depicted in the 3D render comparison at Figure 10 below and the 3D render at Figure 11 over page.



**Figure 10** – Comparison images showing the increased roof level in the south-eastern corner of the existing hotel premises and relatively minor additional height and scale





**Figure 11** – 3D render demonstrating that the south-eastern roof addition will not be readily discernible as viewed from Moore Road

These images demonstrate that notwithstanding the building height breaching elements that the overall height and scale the hotel building as viewed from the surrounding public and private domains is not significantly altered to the extent that it would be perceived as inappropriate or jarring in a streetscape and urban design context.

Consistent with the conclusions reached by Senior Commissioner Roseth in the matter of *Project Venture Developments v Pittwater Council (2005) NSW LEC 191* I have formed the considered opinion that most observers would not find the height and scale of the roof additions, notwithstanding the building height breaching elements, offensive, jarring or unsympathetic in a streetscape and urban context. In this regard, it can be reasonably be concluded that, notwithstanding the building height breaching elements, the development is capable of existing together in harmony with surrounding and nearby development.

Notwithstanding the building height breaching elements, the resultant development is compatible with the height and scale of surrounding and nearby development and accordingly the proposal achieves this objective.

- (b) *to minimise visual impact, disruption of views, loss of privacy and loss of solar access,*

Comment: In relation to visual impact, I rely on the analysis detailed in response to objective (a) to confirm that the building height breaching roof form elements will not give rise to any unacceptable visual impact.

Visual impacts have been minimised through the adoption of a characteristically pitched roof form which has been designed in consultation with the project heritage consultant to ensure that it provides for a complimentary and compatible built form outcome having regard to the heritage significance of the existing building.

In relation to the disruption of views, having inspected the site and its surrounds to identify potential view corridors across the site, and noting that the building height breaching roof elements proposed sit below the ridge height established by the primary north-south running ridgeline associated with the existing hotel premises, I have formed the opinion that the non-compliant building height elements proposed will not give rise to unacceptable view impact.

In relation to the minimisation of privacy loss, I note that the non-compliant building height elements will not give rise to any adverse privacy impacts.

In relation to solar access, the shadow diagrams at Attachment 1 demonstrate that shadows from the building height breaching roof elements fall predominantly within the subject site throughout the day with no unacceptable non-compliant shadowing impacts arising from the building height non-compliant elements proposed. Solar access impacts have been minimised.

In this regard, I have formed the opinion that the design of the development has minimised visual impacts, disruption of views, loss of privacy and loss of solar access and accordingly this objective is achieved notwithstanding the building height breaching elements.

- (c) *to minimise any adverse impact of development on the scenic quality of Warringah's coastal and bush environments,*

Comment: The non-compliant building height elements will not be readily discernible as viewed from any coastal or bushland environments.

In any event, notwithstanding the height building breaching elements, the height, bulk and scale of the building will not be perceived as inappropriate or jarring have regard to the form of development located within the same visual catchment, with the building height breaching elements not giving rise to adverse impact on the scenic quality of Warringah's coastal and bush environments. This objective is achieved notwithstanding the building height breaching elements proposed.

- (d) *to manage the visual impact of development when viewed from public places such as parks and reserves, roads and community facilities.*

Comment: To the extent that the non-compliant building height elements are visible from public places for the reasons previously outlined I am satisfied that the height, bulk and scale of the building will not be perceived as inappropriate or jarring have regard to the height bulk and scale of surrounding development in the relatively minor nature of the building height breaching elements proposed which take the form of a complimentary and compatible pitched roof form.

Consistent with the conclusions reached by Senior Commissioner Roseth in the matter of Project Venture Developments v Pittwater Council (2005) NSW LEC 191 I have formed the considered opinion that most observers would not find the proposed development, in particular the building height breaching elements proposed, offensive, jarring or unsympathetic in a streetscape context. The building height breaching elements will not give rise to unacceptable visual impacts when viewed from any public places.

Having regard to the above, the non-compliant component of the building will achieve the objectives of the standard to at least an equal degree as would be the case with a development that complied with the building height standard. Given the developments consistency with the objectives of the height of buildings standard strict compliance has been found to be both unreasonable and unnecessary under the circumstances.

### **Consistency with zone objectives**

The subject property is zoned R2 Low Density Residential pursuant to WLEP 2011. The developments consistency with the stated objectives of the zone are as follows:

- *To provide for the housing needs of the community within a low density residential environment.*

Response: This objective is not relevant.

- *To enable other land uses that provide facilities or services to meet the day to day needs of residents.*

Response: The building height variation will facilitate the provision of disabled lift access to the ancillary recording space for local artists located within the existing pitched roof form. This ancillary recording space will be available for use by local residents and to that extent approval of the building height variation will facilitate the attainment of this objective.

- *To ensure that low density residential environments are characterised by landscaped settings that are in harmony with the natural environment of Warringah.*

Response: the application does not propose any change the established landscape regime and accordingly this objective is satisfied.

The proposed development, notwithstanding the height breaching elements, achieve the objectives of the zone.

The non-compliant component of the development, as it relates to building height, demonstrates consistency with objectives of the zone and the height of building standard objectives. Adopting the first option in *Wehbe* strict compliance with the height of buildings standard has been demonstrated to be is unreasonable and unnecessary.

#### **4.3 Clause 4.6(4)(b) – Are there sufficient environmental planning grounds to justify contravening the development standard?**

In Initial Action the Court found at [23]-[24] that:

*As to the second matter required by cl 4.6(3)(b), the grounds relied on by the applicant in the written request under cl 4.6 must be “environmental planning grounds” by their nature: see *Four2Five Pty Ltd v Ashfield Council* [2015] NSWLEC 90 at [26]. The adjectival phrase “environmental planning” is not defined, but would refer to grounds that relate to the subject matter, scope and purpose of the EPA Act, including the objects in s 1.3 of the EPA Act.*

*The environmental planning grounds relied on in the written request under cl 4.6 must be “sufficient”. There are two respects in which the written request needs to be “sufficient”. First, the environmental planning grounds advanced in the written request must be sufficient “to justify contravening the development standard”. The focus of cl 4.6(3)(b) is on the aspect or element of the development that contravenes the development standard, not on the development as a whole, and why that contravention is justified on environmental planning grounds.*

*The environmental planning grounds advanced in the written request must justify the contravention of the development standard, not simply promote the benefits of carrying out the development as a whole: see Four2Five Pty Ltd v Ashfield Council [2015] NSWCA 248 at [15]. Second, the written request must demonstrate that there are sufficient environmental planning grounds to justify contravening the development standard so as to enable the consent authority to be satisfied under cl 4.6(4)(a)(i) that the written request has adequately addressed this matter: see Four2Five Pty Ltd v Ashfield Council [2015] NSWLEC 90 at [31].*

### **Sufficient environmental planning grounds**

Sufficient environmental planning grounds exist to justify the height of buildings variation namely the fact that the variation facilitates disabled lift access to the existing attic level of the heritage listed building being the most appropriate location for a lift structure given the heritage significance of the building and its associated fabric.

Whilst the extent of non-compliance could be removed through the introduction of a flat roof form, the complementary and compatible pitched roof form responds appropriately to the heritage listing of the subject property.

I consider the proposal to be of a skilful design which responds appropriately and effectively to the heritage constraints of the site. The proposed development achieves the objects in Section 1.3 of the EPA Act, specifically:

- The proposal promotes the orderly and economic use and development of land (1.3(c)).
- The proposal promotes the sustainable management of built and cultural heritage by facilitating disabled lift access to the existing attic level floor space within a characteristically pitched roof form (1.3(f)).
- The development represents good contextually appropriate heritage sensitive design (1.3(g)).
- The building as designed facilitates its proper construction and will ensure the protection of the health and safety of its future occupants (1.3(h)).

It is noted that in *Initial Action*, the Court clarified what items a Clause 4.6 does and does not need to satisfy. Importantly, there does not need to be a "better" planning outcome:

*87. The second matter was in cl 4.6(3)(b). I find that the Commissioner applied the wrong test in considering this matter by requiring that the development, which contravened the height development standard, result in a "better environmental planning outcome for the site" relative to a development that complies with the height development standard (in [141] and [142] of the judgment). Clause 4.6 does not directly or indirectly establish this test.*

*The requirement in cl 4.6(3)(b) is that there are sufficient environmental planning grounds to justify contravening the development standard, not that the development that contravenes the development standard have a better environmental planning outcome than a development that complies with the development standard.*

There are sufficient environmental planning grounds to justify contravening the development standard.

**4.4 Clause 4.6(a)(iii) – Is the proposed development in the public interest because it is consistent with the objectives of clause 4.3 and the objectives of the R2 Low Density Residential zone**

The consent authority needs to be satisfied that the proposed development will be in the public interest if the standard is varied because it is consistent with the objectives of the standard and the objectives of the zone.

Preston CJ in Initial Action (Para 27) described the relevant test for this as follows:

*“The matter in cl 4.6(4)(a)(ii), with which the consent authority or the Court on appeal must be satisfied, is not merely that the proposed development will be in the public interest but that it will be in the public interest because it is consistent with the objectives of the development standard and the objectives for development of the zone in which the development is proposed to be carried out.*

*It is the proposed development’s consistency with the objectives of the development standard and the objectives of the zone that make the proposed development in the public interest. If the proposed development is inconsistent with either the objectives of the development standard or the objectives of the zone or both, the consent authority, or the Court on appeal, cannot be satisfied that the development will be in the public interest for the purposes of cl 4.6(4)(a)(ii).”*



As demonstrated in this request, the proposed development is consistent with the objectives of the development standard and the objectives for development of the zone in which the development is proposed to be carried out.

Accordingly, the consent authority can be satisfied that the proposed development will be in the public interest if the standard is varied because it is consistent with the objectives of the standard and the objectives of the zone.

#### **4.5 Secretary's concurrence**

By Planning Circular dated 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020, the Secretary of the Department of Planning & Environment advised that consent authorities can assume the concurrence to clause 4.6 request except in the circumstances set out below:

- Lot size standards for rural dwellings;
- Variations exceeding 10%; and
- Variations to non-numerical development standards.

The circular also provides that concurrence can be assumed when an LPP is the consent authority where a variation exceeds 10% or is to a nonnumerical standard, because of the greater scrutiny that the LPP process and determinations are subject to, compared with decisions made under delegation by Council staff.

#### **5.0 Conclusion**

Pursuant to clause 4.6(4)(a), the consent authority is satisfied that the applicant's written request has adequately addressed the matters required to be demonstrated by subclause (3) being:

- (a) *that compliance with the development standard is unreasonable or unnecessary in the circumstances of the case, and*
- (b) *that there are sufficient environmental planning grounds to justify contravening the development standard.*

As such, I have formed the considered opinion that there is no statutory or environmental planning impediment to the granting of a height of buildings variation in this instance.

**Boston Blyth Fleming Pty Limited**



**Greg Boston**  
B Urb & Reg Plan (UNE) MPIA  
**Director**

**Attachment 1**      Shadow diagrams

