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16/01/2023

MR Guyren Smith
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[REDACTED]

RE: REV2022/0024 - 394 Barrenjoey Road NEWPORT NSW 2106

I disagree with the Sydney North Planning Panels refusal of the Newport Surf Lifesaving clubs' renovation DA and strongly support the proposed club house renovations. I implore the Sydney North Planning panel to fully consider ALL the issues and to approve the DA for these much needed and long-awaited enhancement and protection works.

The proposed works to protect the club house from potential coastal erosion will ensure that what we believe to be the oldest purpose-built surf club on the NSW coast can continue to serve the community for decades to come. The protection works are essentially an upgrade of the works that were put in place in 1974 when much of the area suffered a significant storm event and are essential to ensure that the club house is not just left to be claimed by the ocean which would be a devastating outcome for the club and the wider community. The plans for these protection works have been subjected to a high level of scrutiny with various reviews of the work and continue to come back with the conclusion that they will protect the clubhouse and not adversely impact the beach

The planning panel's previous suggestion that alternative site options be considered did not consider the constraints that are inherent in the surrounding space, these constraints include:
Flood zones that are present to the south and west of the current location

A sewer main that runs under the western side of the carpark

Youth and children's play areas to the west of the club house

Norfolk pines of significant community value to the North, South and West of the current location

The significant operational lifesaving advantage provided by having the club house with elevated observation areas that can provide surveillance of the entire beach.

The renovation will ensure that the club house is functional and fit for use by the club and the wider community into the future. These works will provide significant improvements for the surf club members and the wider community by:

Improving Disabled access and achieving DDA compliance by removing the numerous floor level changes within the building, providing reliable lift access to the first floor, removing narrow/dangerous stairways

Providing updated, improved and equitable shower, change and toilet facilities for the members and public alike.

Providing increased and more efficient storage for state-of-the-art lifesaving equipment

Ensuring that the upstairs area becomes a true multi use facility that can support multiple activities at a time and has dedicated modern facilities for training lifesavers for the generations to come.

I implore the panel to look at all of the issues and approve this DA so that Newport Surf club can have a home that is in keeping with its position as one of the leading surf clubs in the country and that the Newport community can continue to view and access the club house as an icon of the local area.

Regards
Guyren Smith