
From: Peter Vasili
Sent: 23/05/2025 4:17:01 PM
To: Council Northernbeaches Mailbox
Subject: Objection to Development Application for McDonald's Restaurant in Balgowlah: DA2025/0132

Dear Council,

I am writing to formally object to the proposed Development Application for a McDonald's restaurant in Balgowlah. As a concerned resident, I believe this development poses significant risks to the local community, including increased crime, disruption to the area's character, negative health impacts and heightened traffic congestion.

The recent rejection of the McDonald's proposal in Redfern serves as a relevant case study. In that instance, NSW Police raised concerns about the potential rise in crime, including e-bike theft, robberies, and anti-social behaviour. Additionally, local residents and businesses voiced strong opposition, citing concerns about litter, noise pollution, and the impact on the area's unique identity. The City of Sydney Council ultimately rejected the proposal due to its failure to address crime prevention and its detrimental effect on the community.

Similar concerns apply to Balgowlah. The introduction of a fast-food outlet in our neighbourhood would likely lead to:

- **Increased Crime & Safety Risks:** As seen in Redfern, police identified fast-food outlets as potential crime hotspots, particularly in areas with high foot traffic.
- **Disruption to Local Character:** Balgowlah is known for its suburban charm and community-focused businesses. A McDonald's would undermine this atmosphere, much like the concerns raised in Redfern.
- **Health & Environmental Impact:** The Redfern case highlighted concerns about unhealthy food options and increased litter. These same issues would affect Balgowlah, contributing to environmental degradation and public health concerns.
- **Traffic Congestion & Safety Hazards:** A high-traffic fast-food restaurant would add substantial pressure to local roads, particularly near major intersections and residential streets. The increase in drive-through activity and customer parking could result in bottlenecks, delays, and safety concerns for pedestrians and cyclists. Given Balgowlah's already constrained traffic flow, this development will exacerbate congestion, making daily commuting and local travel more difficult for residents.

Given these factors, I urge the council to reject this Development Application in the best interest of our community. The precedent set by the Redfern case demonstrates that such developments can have far-reaching negative consequences. I respectfully request that the council prioritise the well-being, safety, and character of Balgowlah by denying this proposal.

Thank you for considering this objection. I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Vasili



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