

84 Parr Parade,  
Narraweena, N.S.W. 2099,  
21<sup>st</sup> July 2023

Development and Planning Department,  
Northern Beaches Council,  
P.O. Box 82,  
Manly, N.S.W. 1655  
Attention: Mr Phil Lane

Dear Mr Lane,

**SUBJECT: DA 2022/2281**  
**Formalisation of the use of premises as a restaurant (Pilu at Freshwater) including ancillary use as a function centre, increased patron numbers and extended hours of operation.**

We write in strong support of the above Development Application. We are both lifelong residents of the Northern Beaches and have been rate payers for over 44 years. Both sets of our parents before that were also either lifelong or long-term residents of the Northern Beaches. During that time we have seen a significant number of changes, mostly for the better.

One of those changes for the better was the opening of Pilu at Freshwater some 19 years ago. The Northern Beaches had struggled before that time to entice any top-class restaurateurs to establish a restaurant in what we all know is a beautiful and magical part of the world.

We have been regular customers of Pilu at Freshwater since just after they opened and over the years have gotten to know Giovanni Pilu and Marilyn Annetchini very well. They have worked tirelessly to build their restaurant up to be the success that it clearly is, being the only restaurant on the Northern Beaches with two Chef's hats (indeed the only Northern Beaches restaurant with any Chef's hats). The restaurant is now very well and favourably known and is clearly a destination not only for the lucky Northern Beaches residents, but also for diners from other areas of Sydney, N.S.W., interstate and overseas. As the SYDNEY.COM tourist site states "Two-hatted fine dining restaurant Pilu at Freshwater is placed on Sydney's iconic Freshwater Beach and **encapsulates the essence of Sydney's Northern Beaches**".

Building a successful restaurant business over many years has also required that significant effort be devoted to managing relationships other than those that you establish and develop with your customers. These other relationships are with employees, suppliers, and neighbours.

To this extent Giovanni and Marilyn have provided significant training and employment opportunities to Northern Beaches residents, and we know from our interactions with many staff members over the years how happy the work environment appears to be and how highly Giovanni and Marilyn are regarded by

their many employees. Giovanni is also passionate about sourcing local produce which significantly assists local growers and producers.

We also know how acutely aware Giovanni and Marilyn are of the potential impact their business can have on their surrounding neighbours and how hard they have worked at, and continue to work at, minimising any potential adverse impacts. We have witnessed first-hand some of these efforts as on one evening last year when we were at the Pilu Baretto we noted that floor polishers had been engaged to polish the wooden floor of the main restaurant and Marilyn was there personally to monitor the noise levels. It is a testament to their earnest efforts that over the 19 years they have been in business there has only ever been one formal complaint lodged. Clearly this resident must have purchased their property, in full knowledge of the restaurant's existence and its activities, in more recent times, otherwise one would have thought a complaint would have been made years ago.

This restaurant and business contribute a valuable service to the Northern Beaches community and economy through its ability to bring in people from outside of the Northern Beaches as well as providing fabulous dining and function facilities and employment for residents.

It is our go to restaurant when we are hosting and gathering with family and friends, whether they be from the Northern Beaches, other areas of Sydney, N.S.W., interstate or overseas. Everyone who has joined us at Pilu at Freshwater has been impressed with the ambience, the dining options, the service and, of course, the magnificent view, and wish to return at some stage. It is clearly a great advertisement for Freshwater and the broader Northern Beaches.

We strongly believe that Council should approve this Development Application as it is clearly in the interests of the Northern Beaches community.

Yours sincerely



David Westaway



Catherine Westaway