
Sent: 13/12/2020 11:43:42 PM
Subject: Online Submission

13/12/2020

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RE: DA2020/1063 - 2 / 0 Bennett Street CURL CURL NSW 2096

Objection to Proposed Development: DA2020/1063

One of the reasons we love living where we do is because of the amazing fields, walking paths and facilities along the lagoon that we live so close to. My wife and I have both played plenty of sport and can fully appreciate the active sounds of cheers and whistles that come with having neighboring sports facilities. However, we have a number of strong concerns about the development proposing to add sports lighting to the Mike Pawley and Frank Gray Ovals and the impact that this would have on us and the other residents in the nearby area. This is a formal objection to the DA for the following reasons:

1. Traffic - there is no evidence of a traffic impact study having been done. As residents that live very near to the sports fields, we are already hugely inconvenienced by the traffic caused by, and lack of parking for, the visitors to these fields. Over weekends, the surrounding streets are parked up on both sides of the street to the point where you often can't enter and exit your own driveway safely. This results in a number of major issues for local residents:

- Inconvenience of not being able to freely move in and out of your own property and street, and not being able to provide visiting friends and family with parking on arrival due to the streets being parked up with sports families vehicles. This is a significant issue over weekends at the moment but with sports lighting being used during week day nights and the resultant increased traffic, the inconvenience will be caused on week days/nights as well.
- Safety is a very real concern. There are hundreds of young children playing sport and their siblings roaming the streets over weekends. With cars parking up both sides of the streets, it causes visibility issues for drivers weaving in between parked cars who cannot see young children moving around and crossing the streets. An increase in the amount of traffic, especially as it gets darker into the evenings, only increases the risk of children walking to and from the sports fields not being seen by passing drivers. Having the Harbord Bowling Club in the same street unfortunately does result in some irresponsible behaviour from drivers leaving the bowling club at night. The combination of more people roaming the streets to and from the sports fields and drivers leaving the bowling club will materially increase the risk of accidents.
- Increased noise and people traffic.

2. Drainage of sports fields and Increased usage - we have young children who use the Frank Gray and Mike Pawley Ovals for AFL and hockey during winter. They regularly have games cancelled over weekends due the fields being too wet after rain and not draining properly. Council is understandably concerned about looking after the condition of the fields but it seems ludicrous to spend a fortune on lighting in order to increase the usage of the fields, when the fields battle to cope with existing sports traffic due to their drainage issues. Would a better use of funds not be to spend that money (or part of it) on fixing the drainage so the fields can cope with existing traffic first?

3. Following on from the point above - Potential future conversion to artificial turf - we are really concerned that if the drainage of the fields is not improved, and council invests a significant amount of money in lighting on the fields, the next development/investment in the sports fields will be artificial turf fields. This will be an absolute environmental disaster with the Curl Curl lagoon ecosystem adjacent to the sports fields. The microplastics from the plastic turf will cause detrimental damage to the birds, fish and other natural inhabitants of the local ecosystem and destroy the soil below the artificial pitches. There is no way that this should be considered as the next progression for these sports fields, which is another reason to ensure that the drainage around the existing grass fields is prioritised over and above any additional capital investment in the fields (like lighting).

4. Light pollution for local residents - We are already impacted by the lighting around the sports fields on the northern side of the lagoon and expanding the lighting to the Frank Gray & Mike Pawley fields will have a hugely negative impact on the families living all along the Southern side of the sports fields.

5. Noise Pollution - another concern is increased noise pollution into the evenings for the local residents. There is no evidence that a noise pollution study has been undertaken.

All of the above makes me question the process that council has followed when reviewing this development application. It is incumbent on council to fully inform themselves of ALL the impacts of a proposed development. To this end, we request that they studies are undertaken by a suitably qualified, independent expert, and that given the approach adopted to date, council agrees to have the process reviewed by an independent 3rd party. If the process has been undertaken in a proper manner, this should not be an issue for council.

Improving local amenity is an important part of councils role but not at the expense of the people who they service.

Regards,
Wayne Hall