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To: DA Submission Mailbox
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22/11/2024

MR Rod Mertell
ST
NSW

RE: DA2024/1303 - 11 / 0 Melwood Avenue FORESTVILLE NSW 2087

I strongly object to the proposal, particularly the plans to reduce the outdoor dining and play area space, increase the size of the gaming rooms, and replace traditional restroom facilities with unisex-only toilet options at Forestville RSL.

The RSL has long been a cherished community hub, catering to families, social gatherings, and individuals who value its welcoming and inclusive atmosphere. These proposed changes, however, will undermine the very foundation of what makes the RSL a vital part of our community.

Outdoor Dining and Play Area Reduction

The outdoor dining and play area is a critical feature of the current RSL. It provides families with a safe and enjoyable space to dine and socialise. Reducing this space would massively diminish the RSL's appeal as a community-focused venue for families.

Expansion of Gaming Rooms

While I understand the need for revenue generation, an increased focus on gaming facilities is very concerning. The proposed expansion shifts the balance of the RSL's offerings away from family and social spaces toward gambling. I find this an absolute disgrace given all the media attention regarding gambling addiction and its negative effect on people's lives.

Unisex Toilet Options

Providing unisex-only toilet options will not meet the needs or comfort levels of all patrons. Many individuals, particularly families with children or elderly members, will prefer the privacy and security of gender-specific facilities. While inclusivity is important, it should not come at the cost of practicality and comfort for most patrons. A mix of unisex and traditional restrooms would be a more balanced approach.