

**Land and Environment Court Proceedings No. 2023/109048 (DA2021/2173)  
Submission Supporting Approval of Application for alterations and additions  
and coastal protection works to Newport Surf Life Saving Club**

I support the latest layout amendments to the Newport SLSC's Club Renovations DA and support the Newport Surf Life Saving Club's proposed Clubhouse renovations for the following reasons:

- The proposed amendments to the Main Gear Shed access and eastern / northern concourse changes will not adversely impact the Club's operations and will provide additional mitigation measures to protect the existing and new portions of the building in the event of a major future storm event.
- I understand that Northern Beaches Council and Newport SLSC Representatives have worked closely with the Council's Coastal Engineering experts to develop a functional and effective solution to mitigate potential future coastal and wave inundation risks identified to the existing Heritage Clubhouse building and the proposed new renovated portions of the building.
- Northern Beaches Council, as the elected Council, has fully supported and sponsored the Newport SLSC's Club Renovations DA on behalf of the wider community and the surf club. As a local community member, I support Council's right and responsibility to undertake urgently needed building upgrades and maintenance to the existing Clubhouse building as a critical emergency services facility and an important community asset.
- I support the Council's ability to install coastal protection works in front of the existing heritage-listed Newport SLSC clubhouse to prevent the ultimate potential destruction of this vital community asset and the traditional home of the Newport Surf Club since the 1930s.
- The amended DA proposal incorporates necessary coastal engineering protection measures now agreed by the experts for the existing Clubhouse, which must be undertaken as a priority to avoid the potential for significant damage or the possible destruction of our Clubhouse due to a significant storm event. These coastal protection works are essential to maintain public safety, and are required regardless of whether the Clubhouse is renovated. They should be undertaken as soon as practically possible.
- The **Newport Surf Life Saving Club is classified as an Essential Service Facility** (as gazetted as part of the Emergency Services Legislation Amendment Act 2018)

- During patrol hours for the last 10 years the Club effected the following rescues and preventative actions:
- 621 Rescues
- 10,500 Preventative Actions
- Any proposal to relocate the Clubhouse to another location is ill-founded and not based on sound technical or engineering facts. The amended reports prepared by the Council's expert consultants as part of the current proceedings demonstrate that any such relocation of the Club's facilities cannot be accommodated due to a range of environmental and physical constraints, not to mention the potential loss of public parkland or parking resulting from a relocated building footprint.
- Any relocation of the existing Clubhouse would create a dangerous precedent for the beachgoing public and would severely hinder the Newport Surf Lifesaving Club's ability to undertake its emergency services operations. Beach safety surveillance and the Club's ability to rapidly deploy emergency rescue craft during a rescue event would be dangerously compromised.
- Any relocation of the public amenities and change rooms that form part of the Clubhouse complex away from their logical beachside location would create further safety and inconvenience issues for the beach going public by forcing young children or elderly and disabled citizens to traverse a busy carpark to gain access to remotely located amenities.
- The proposed renovation and rationalisation of the Club's facilities creates the opportunity to adequately address Work Health and Safety issues associated with the ageing building and bring it into line with current-day compliance and safety standards thereby protecting our volunteer Members and the general beachgoing public using the clubhouse building.
- The existing clubhouse building is not Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant. Many areas within the existing building are not accessible due to floor-level changes that prohibit equitable access and the existing lift access to the building is very poorly located. The proposed renovation and rationalisation of the Club's facilities creates the opportunity to adequately address noncompliant disabled and equitable access aspects of the existing Clubhouse and bring the building up to modern-day accessibility compliance standards.
- The existing clubhouse has evolved organically over the last 90 odd years without a rational master plan. This has resulted in the current building being dysfunctional and inefficient in several areas and this restricts and often hampers the Club's operations.

- The existing clubhouse is used for a variety of community and broader SLS Branch uses in addition to servicing the Club's Life Saving needs. The inability of the existing building to cater for several different activities at any one time severely restricts the operations of the Club and other Community and SLS Branch groups wishing to utilise the Clubhouse.

The Newport Surf Life Saving Club undertakes an extremely valuable service to the local community. It deserves contemporary, safe, and compliant facilities commensurate with its contribution to and its standing within the local community.

I urge the Court to now approve the Club's DA proposal as a matter of priority.

John A Ringrose  
Barrister at law  
Honorary Legal Officer  
Newport SLSC