

Josanne Ryan
151 Grandview Drive, Newport 2106

Attn: Bernard Koon
council@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

December 15th, 2024

To: Whom it may concern.

Re: Newport Surf Life Saving Club – DA Renovation Plans - DA

I apologise that this submission is slightly outside the deadline, I was unfortunately unaware of the deadline for community consultation regarding the new plans. I appreciate that the Newport SLSC is in need of updating internally and is inadequate in a range of ways for the modern demands of the community so fully uphold the plan to update and renovate the structure to improve its capability and offering.

However, it is a wonderful iconic building, built in 1938 with a classically Australian look and feel, and having reviewed the upgrade plans I am concerned that the design proposed will detract from the overall aesthetic of the building.

I appreciate that the sea wall needs to be built, and that this is a considerable part of the budget and that there are no doubt budget constraints, however the modern extension is heavy and detracts from the original building rather than harmonising with it.

The west elevation which will be seen from Barrenjoey Road shows an image with the storage area being a bulky square structure of indeterminate materials that overwhelms the existing elegant structure. It appears that the colour is not in keeping with the rest of the building and I could not find specific details of materials to be used but appears to be light coloured bricks with vertical slats for airflow.





The North Elevation above shows a structure completely separate from the original building which does not carry over any elements that could harmonise this extension with the existing structure.

Whilst the extension does add valuable outdoor space and the gable roof is extended as seen on the plans, the eastern elevation shows the extension as being a clearly different colour and format to the earlier building and is potentially visually jarring as seen in this image.



Whilst I potentially appreciate the need for marine grade bi-folds it is essential that these marry with the timber windows in the traditional section of the building.

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I appreciate that this has been a long process for council, but I do not consider the current design plan to have the right design aesthetic. I am not against modern structures blended with heritage and other older, established structures and have seen this done admirably in some instances.

However, once it is built it will be there for many decades to come, and it is imperative to get it right. Having seen this happen in other councils where I have lived – Coogee SLSC for one has had a contentious and unfortunate renovation that obliterated the classic aesthetic of the building: <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2020/nov/29/this-isnt-what-i-had-in-mind-nsw-treasurer-regrets-sydney-surf-club-upgrade-he-funded>

The Coogee outcome could easily have been avoided with an architectural approach that was more in harmony with the original architectural era and design and a council that fully valued community feedback and the iconic and much-loved nature of the existing structure. In contrast, Bondi Pavillion is one refurbishment that appears to have managed to fully incorporate the original design into the new structure, largely due to the local community feedback being duly considered.

I appreciate that this will go to the planning panel but consider it important to provide my feedback and hope that the design will be further evolved to obtain the right result.

Kind regards,
Josanne Ryan