
Sent: 9/09/2021 9:29:07 PM
Subject: Online Submission

09/09/2021

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RE: Mod2021/0616 - 77 Collingwood Street MANLY NSW 2095

Since opening, "The Corner" cafe has proven to be very popular with often over 20 customers congregating to order, or waiting to collect their orders from the servery window located adjacent to the busy narrow footpath. Customers often queue & gather across the footpath completely blocking it. This requires pedestrians, including myself, to walk on the road to get to & from the pedestrian crossing. Customers also congregate on the road causing serious hazards to themselves & drivers. Council would be aware that there are hundreds of vehicle movements through the narrow entrance to Cameron Avenue daily. Many of the pedestrians are families with small children walking to / from the popular 0-5 playground. Others are dog walkers using the unleashed dog park. Recently Council has completed landscaping works & doubled the number of BBQs adjacent to the playground which will further increase pedestrian & vehicular traffic. Covid-19 has added another health & safety concern in regards to physical distancing. While currently most customers wear masks while waiting, many do not & many do not observe physical distancing. While Council is not responsible to monitor Covid-19 compliance it does have a duty of care to the general public in considering how the servery window is used.

Despite Council assisting the business by increasing the amount of concreted footpath & Australia Post moving it's post boxes to create a more open area for pedestrians & customers, serious safety hazards remain.

The current Covid situation presents great challenges for businesses & while sympathetic, the safety of the public should not be compromised. The most recent DA approval allowing use of the servery window, which was not adequately noted in the original plans/DA, required the business to have customers order inside & then collect from the footpath adjacent servery window. In my view this was a sensible compromise. An alternative would be that orders are taken through the servery window, then collected inside or at the door of the cafe in Collingwood St.

Many similar local businesses currently allow people to order inside, then wait outside & collect their order from inside. These businesses are not located on such a busy footpath. It would seem The Corner cafe for some reason is receiving special consideration, with Council effectively giving the business almost exclusive use of the public footpath while the inside of the cafe is not accessible to it's customers at all.

I urge Council to require signage to be installed encouraging customers to queue along the wall from the servery window towards the park to order & then customers be directed to collect orders either inside the cafe or from the front entrance of the cafe in Collingwood St. This would be a suitable compromise, improving safety for pedestrians, customers & drivers,.

Thank you for considering my views & please do not hesitate to contact me if needed.