
Sent: 28/01/2020 1:11:42 PM
Subject: Online Submission

28/01/2020

MR Alan MacRae
4 / 5 Cameron AVE
Manly NSW 2095
alanjmacrae@gmail.com

RE: DA2019/1426 - 77 Collingwood Street MANLY NSW 2095

Re: Objection to DA 2019/1426 - use of servery window at 77 Collingwood St Manly ("The Corner Cafe")

I wish to lodge my objection to this DA due to the serious impact the use of the servery window has had on the safety of both pedestrians & cafe patrons caused by the continual blocking of the footpath in Cameron Ave that leads to the pedestrian crossing to the beach. Despite the servery window obviously being an integral part of "The Corner's" business plan it was not noted in the original DA submitted in late 2018. Approval was given for 2 windows to be installed to allow light & ventilation only - not to be used as a "takeaway servery". I would assume that had the proposed use of the windows been clearly disclosed on the original DA (ie take away window) the DA would have been the subject of further investigation, particularly in relation to pedestrian movements on the busy footpath leading from Cameron Ave. The last 12 months of use of the servery window has actually proven beyond any doubt that the servery window has created an unacceptable increase in the risk to all those that use the Cameron Ave path to access the beach & vice versa.

Cameron ave is a small residential dead-end street featuring a very popular 0-5 years playground, lagoon & unleashed dog park, cycle path & the only public BBQ along the stretch from Queenscliff to Shelly Beach. Council signage at the street entrance promotes it as having "2 hr parking for 62 cars". This small street sees literally hundreds of vehicle & pedestrian movements every day. Peak footpath "blockage times" at the cafe window often coincide with "peak vehicle movement times". Sunday mornings when "Nippers" is on at Queensie SLSC is particularly busy & hazardous. Myself & others have often had to walk on the road to get access to the crossing to the beach. Neighbours have complained that they have to try to force their way through the crowds ordering or waiting at the servery window. Often they have no option but to push their pram (with their dog) along the road to the crossing - putting them & other road users / drivers at risk. In December 2019, I witnessed a "minor" collision with a pedestrian & a car just down from the take away servery window (cafe was closed at the time). The pedestrian crossed the road from between 2 parked cars (while wearing earbuds) & neglected to look right. The car managed to slow & she was lucky that she just ended up sprawled over the car bonnet looking embarrassed. If this had been a child of course the injuries may have been severe!

Almost 12 months ago myself & others met with the owners of "The Corner" to discuss our safety concerns & look at possible solutions. Since that meeting they have been displaying signs (though perhaps not high enough to be clearly visible) requesting customers keep the footpath clear while waiting for their order. These signs have had little or no effect on the behavior of their patrons - they still block the footpath oblivious to the safety of themselves & others. Council also acted quickly to pave some of the grassed area & move post boxes

slightly - this has also saw no improvement in safety concerns Some patrons have been noticed standing on the road itself at the narrow entrance to the busy street. People often seem unwilling to move aside & don't respond to polite requests of "excuse me etc". As a resident of Cameron Ave for over 20 years I find it unacceptable that safe access to the beach crossing that I use at least 6 times a day on weekends has been affected / denied for over a year now since the use of the servery window began.

Photos have been provided to council officers by residents in recent months showing the dangers caused by the crowds of cafe patrons. Council acted and issued a "Development Control Order" - hence the new DA to approve the use of the servery window. During this period you would assume that the cafe would be keen to demonstrate that they can manage the safety & crowding issues caused by their business, but unfortunately there has been no improvement. I have noted some photos attached to a submission on this DA & I can confirm that these are accurate in their portrayal of the issues. It should be noted also that the 4 rings recently added to the building to secure dogs, while well-meaning, actually create yet another safety issue (trip hazard) for pedestrians & path users when the lead becomes stretched.

In summary - the "Corner Cafe" itself may be a "good addition" to the area but the take away servery window creates an extreme safety risk to pedestrians & road users alike. The business is actually seeking to use Council/ public land for no charge to extend it's floor space! "The Corner" can alter it's internal table layout to accommodate take away customers inside where they are safer! While blocking the footpath for business use may be an acceptable option in some areas of the Northern Beaches; in this busy pedestrian & vehicle thoroughfare it poses an unacceptable risk. Some may say it's just the "beach culture" - the truth is it is unsafe & unfortunately will cause an incident resulting in serious injury or worse!

Thank you for your time in considering my submission. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further details such as photos etc.