
Sent: 20/12/2022 3:54:17 PM
Subject: Newport Surfclub

I am writing to support the DA application for upgrading Newport Surfclub.

I have been involved in the Newport Surfclub since 2000 (22 of the 25yrs I've been alive). It has been one of the greatest privileges of my life and has given me so much. My family has been involved, my fiancé was in it for five years, and my dad is a life member.

We have been fortunate to have been involved with the club going from 51st in the country to 2nd... in a matter of 5 years. It was no small feat. It took many hours, many sacrifices and especially, many people. Over the years, we have managed to stay the in the top 4 in the country, including 2nd the last two years, but we have also lost many athletes to QLD clubs. A big reason for this is the facilities that the QLD clubs offer.

Having more athletes in the club is great for competition, but it is even more significant for the safety of our great beach. We were once training at Newport beach when we saw a father and his daughter struggling in a rip. They could not return to shore while the mother cried hysterically on the beach, screaming for assistance. Our club members calmly raced out the back and saved them. The beach was unpatrolled at this time. The mother wrote to the club thanking them and quoted the father saying, "we would not have survived if it was not for them." I have multiple other stories about lives being saved from our presence on the beach.

It has been challenging for me to watch neighbouring clubs like Avalon, Mona Vale, and Long Reef gain brand new surfclubs while we wait for an extension approval. I understand that competition results are not the primary measurement of a surfclub. However, they sure do significantly increase the chances of having more people to patrol the beach and keep the community safe.

Keeping athletes in NSW, or in the sport for that matter, starts with excellent facilities. With the current facilities, we cannot grow our team, let alone maintain it. It is simply unacceptable to deny such a pivotal part of the community, such as Newport Surfclub, a chance to expand, a chance to save more lives in the ocean and a chance to help our teenagers and youth keep fit and healthy while finding a sense of purpose in the community. Please don't let a simple extension of the Surfclub be the barrier to all of this.

We are a great club, full of great people that loves our community and wants to give back.

Regards,
Max