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**From:** DYPXCPWEB@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au  
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**To:** DA Submission Mailbox  
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17/10/2024

MR George Deubler  
130 Victoria ST  
Ashfield NSW

**RE: DA2024/1171 - 2742 / 9999 Condamine Street MANLY VALE NSW 2093**

The City Houses Corporate League is the largest sporting event in terms of participation in the CBD (approx. 360 players). Further, the squash courts we operate in Castlereagh St and Pitt St see about 800 different players use the courts on a yearly basis (including schools, corporate squash events etc). Within this number is a significant percentage of Northern Beaches residents who play in the mornings, on their lunch break or after work. Our association reached the point where the demand exceeded the supply of courts about 6 or 7 years ago.

Further, I can personally attest to the increase in demand that occurs when a squash facility is upgraded (not just the aesthetic look, but ease of accessibility e.g. Automated bookings, door keys to the squash courts). We upgraded our courts in 2018 which included turning the front walls of the courts to glass walls and instigated an automated booking system. Demand increased significantly over a very short period.

I have viewed the design of the new North Manly Squash centre (and also know the old one). I have no doubt the demand will increase significantly. Speaking with Michelle Martin who is lobbying for the new courts, having some idea of what the current demand for the courts are and what I have outlined above re the boost a new facility brings. I am also convinced that the facility should have more courts as the exposure and reach of the sport is increasing.

Specifically:-

1. Squash is now in the Olympics,
2. Squash in 2023 received significant and long term investment at the professional level in the USA by some very influential people in business of Sport (e.g. the owner of the LA Dodgers baseball and Chelsea soccer clubs).
3. The 2024 World Championships were sponsored by Xbox - a subsidiary of Microsoft.
4. Xbox is developing a gaming version of the sport.
5. I understand the world professional body is in negotiation with the major American TV networks to televise the major squash events live.

While the above advances are generally occurring in the USA there is little doubt that what happened in the US has influences worldwide.

Locally there is an increase in the number of schools who are signing up to Squash Programmes - Elenora Squash Club on the Northern Beaches have over 10 schools that regularly participate at the club which has been due to an enthusiastic new lessee coming on board.

More broadly, recent Australian Government Sport surveys (Ausplay) show that Squash participation sits between Rugby Union and League in terms of numbers. However, receives a fraction of investment of the football codes. If council's goal is to encourage participation and better health outcomes - squash is a good investment. I believe the proposed upgrade is the

right path but given what I have outlined above the number of courts proposed will not meet the demand. It would seem more cost efficient to build the right number of courts in the original build rather than an add on in the future.

I am happy to discuss my views with a council representative if it is considered of value