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**From:** DYPXCPWEB@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au  
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**To:** DA Submission Mailbox  
**Subject:** Online Submission

13/11/2024

MR Michael Bates  
10 Shannon AVE  
Killarney Heights NSW 2087

**RE: DA2024/1303 - 11 / 0 Melwood Avenue FORESTVILLE NSW 2087**

I am writing to express my significant concerns regarding the reduction of outdoor green spaces for families at the Forestville RSL Club. This change seems to stem from the expansion of both indoor and outdoor gaming areas. For many years, the Forestville RSL has been a family-oriented establishment, serving as a welcoming place for the community to come together, spend quality time, and foster connections. However, this new plan appears to prioritize increasing gaming facilities - both inside and outside - at the expense of vital communal spaces.

Outdoor green spaces play a crucial role in the lives of families, friends, and the wider community. They provide opportunities to gather, relax, and participate in activities that promote a sense of belonging and well-being. Reducing these spaces undermines the club's identity as a family-friendly institution, shifting its focus toward a model that emphasizes gambling rather than community development. This change is particularly troubling in light of increasing public and governmental attention to the negative impacts of gambling on individuals and society. Recent discussions have emphasized the need to mitigate gambling-related harm by prioritizing inclusive, community-centered spaces.

I firmly believe that this development plan should focus more on enhancing areas where families and friends can come together, such as outdoor green spaces, rather than expanding facilities for pokies. Preserving and expanding these spaces is not merely a matter of maintaining the physical environment - it is about safeguarding the essence of what makes the Forestville RSL a true community hub. I urge the club to reconsider this aspect of its development strategy and to realign its priorities with the values of connection, inclusion, and community well-being that have long defined its purpose.

While the club has recently introduced the kids area, this is significantly smaller than the Belrose Hotel and if the club wishes to be a part of the community for years to come it needs to be more progressing - i.e. reducing the large smoking area and focus on pokies.

Please reach out if you wish to discuss.

Michael