
Sent: 22/07/2010 2:45:05 PM

Subject:

Attachments: Document.pdf;

Council to developer: No fresh changes for Freshwater

COUNCIL 21 JUL 10 @ 05:18PM BY BRENTON CHERRY



Proposed development at Freshwater - artist's impression.

WARRINGAH Council has refused to allow the group behind the proposed Freshwater development to make late amendments to its plans.

Last month the council's director of planning, Malcolm Ryan, ``strongly encouraged'' Freshwater Village Developments to withdraw its application for a \$60million, three-and five-storey retail-residential development of the northern side of the shopping strip.

Mr Ryan identified ``significant deficiencies'' and ``fundamental planning concerns'' with the proposal, including issues related to traffic, planning and safety.

But City Plan Services, acting on behalf of the developer, claimed it could address the concerns and requested it be allowed to amend its plans.

The council has refused to back down and instructed City Plan Services that, if it wants to address the issues with plans, it must seek a formal deferral from the Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP).

In a letter to the council earlier this month, City Plan Services executive director Sue Francis stated this would mean not being able to address concerns with the proposal for a further six weeks after the JRPP meeting on September 15.

``This seems a poor use of time and certainly is not in the spirit of achieving reasonable assessment and determination time frames for such complex matters,'' she wrote.

But yesterday Mr Ryan was standing by the council's position.

``Our point of view is that we determine the application they have submitted and if they wish to submit an application and pay the DA fees we will assess that,'' he said.

``But it is not for them to keep making amendments at no additional charge.^

The proposed development met stiff resistance from Freshwater residents who fear it will change the quiet fabric of their village.

See the residents' action group's [video](#).

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