
Sent: 1/03/2021 4:33:07 AM
Subject: Mod2021/0005

Dear Council,

Perhaps you are aware of a recent letter drop in the Church Point area which was authored by the West Pittwater Community Association, Church Point Friends and Church Point Community Projects I I am sure the circular will be submitted to Council in opposition to the Pasadena proposal.

The purpose of this submission is to provide some alternate views to those expressed in a recent letter drop which came from the West Pittwater Community Association, Church Point Friends and Church Point Community Projects.

West Point Community Association is a members only association. I note that it is not possible to ascertain membership of this group if you are not part of it already. The other two groups who authored the circular do not publicly declare who they are, either in the circular nor on the web and it is not possible to ascertain if they have a vested interest in the maintenance of the current situation. Perhaps they don't and they are genuinely concerned. But writing a circular as they did and failing to put any actual names to it lacks transparency and is dishonest. A logical conclusion is that vested interests with the Waterfront Store and Café are involved in the circular and opposition to the proposal.

I argue that the proposal put forward by the Pasadena would significantly improve the character, feel and safety of the area.

The current operators of the Waterfront Café are required under their lease to maintain the building in which they are in. The exterior decay of the building significantly detracts from the character of the reserve. The current operators of the Waterfront have done the bare minimum in terms of upkeep of the externals of the building.

The circular by WPCA, CPF, and CPCP states that the west wall of the Pasadena “acts as a heat sink in winter providing a warm backdrop for those using the reserve and keeps the focus on the vista toward Pittwater and provides a semi-private area for locals to meet with warmth and wind”.

The proposal includes replacing the blank white wall with the large glass doors in the north and west, 1 m high seating. The opening of the wall and the use of it by patrons of the café means that the people who drink alcohol in the corner of the reserve every afternoon, (meaning I have a reluctance to allow my children to hang out down there without any supervision), may move to another picnic table!

The opening of the Pasadena and use as a café as proposed means that there are more opportunities for interaction by the community and with the community. Currently the Waterfront café siphons off people into a cramped shop entry and then into a separated café sticking out onto the water. Once you are in there, there are no opportunities to engage with those passing through or lingering outside because you are closed off into a private space.

The opening up of the side wall of the Pasadena onto the park would significantly lift the character and appeal of the area and would enable those who wish to enjoy the area to sit and look out, interact with friends and neighbours as they move past, through or enjoy a coffee from the Pasadena in the reserve.

I note that the current operations from the Pasadena caravan along the wall have significantly increased the usability of the area. Once the reserve was a place to pass through, although occasionally we would stop for a coffee from the Waterfront. Now we stop for a coffee at the Pasadena van.

The owners Colin and Pepe talk with everyone who is there. As we are waiting for our coffee, they introduce us to locals who we have not met before, or we talk to new and old friends in the line and as we enjoy our coffee afterwards. This kind of activity would only be enhanced with the proposed changes.

The proposal opens up the historic Pasadena building to the reserve. It democratizes the space and building. And will create a much more welcoming and usable reserve.

The proposed use will make it safer for families and children. There are people who use the reserve everyday who buy their takeaway alcohol from the Waterfront in the afternoon, (and who the Waterfront takes no responsibility for) rendering the area unappealing to families and potentially unsafe for children.

The claim in the circular that the realignment of the northwest stairs will intrude into views out from the reserve is ludicrous.

My family and I would love for the Pasadena to be opened up and used as per the proposal. We fail to see why the Waterfront Store Café should be able to monopolise the reserve determining how it should be used - by drinkers who buy their alcohol from the Waterfront.

The proposal would significantly improve the appeal of the reserve which is currently run down. The reduction in businesses from 3 to 2 is no negative. Parking is always an issue.

Kind regards

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