
Sent: 24/02/2021 11:23:32 AM
Subject: DA 2021-0005
Attachments: Submission - Pasadena DA 2021-0005.docx;

Dear Council,

I just went to make a submission for the Pasadena – DA 2021-0005 and was told the comment period had closed. This is not correct!

Due to residents requesting extra time because they had not had time to alert other residents, I have been informed that the comment period was extended to 12th March. Please accept my attached submission and urgently forward this to your planning department so they can reopen the closure of submissions.

Could you please confirm when the site is again open to receive submissions?

Thank you

Jenny Cullen

20.02.21

Comments from Jenny Cullen on Pasadena DA Mod2021/0005

It is with great dismay that I write to object strongly to the latest DA from the Pasadena.

The Pasadena is already lucky enough to occupy a stunning waterfront location, licensed for 138 patrons, opening onto Crown land walkway and then Pittwater. The extraordinary scenic and public amenity value of this site was reflected in the failed attempt by Pittwater Council to buy it in 2012, and then the decision in 2017 to acquire it back into public ownership by then administrator for Northern Beaches Council, Dick Persson, and Hon. Rob Stokes, now Minister for Planning and Open Spaces. Very disappointingly, in 2018 Northern Beaches Council voted to reject this worthy offer in a motion moved by Cr Eamon.

Since then, the Pasadena has applied for an additional liquor licence to be able to serve alcohol without food, and now this latest DA seeks to open its expanding food and drink service to the west onto Thomas Stephens Reserve, as well as to the north to the waterfront.

Parking – more visitors, but no extra parking!

Although licensed for 138 patrons at the Pasadena restaurant, they provide only about ten carspaces, used by staff; patrons use the adjacent public carparking. The Pasadena offers no parking for the additional visitors this DA is designed to attract. However, offshore residents depend on the same carparking to simply go home. Despite the recent construction of a \$10 million two-level car park, and payment of \$500 per year for Church Point permits, offshore residents compete with everyone else for the limited parking and struggle to park from Friday evening throughout the weekend. When there is an event at the Pasadena, the Church Point carpark will be full. Local Church Point residents also struggle to park near the waterfront and face hefty hourly fees. Both visitors and offshore residents spread further and further in the search for a car space, now filling up the streets near BYRA. Church Point is already at absolute capacity for cars, no development attracting more cars should be approved.

Commercialises public village square

The Pasadena DA proposes to open its western wall onto the small, scenic Thomas Stephens Reserve, with a serving window from a new commercial kitchen and glass doors. A one-metre wall is proposed along its boundary with the reserve, about two metres out from the building. This wall will effectively act as a long counter bench or seat, with stools alongside on a raised ground level. The Pasadena patrons will sit looking over Thomas Stephens Reserve and the water beyond. As with the parking, the Pasadena will make private profit from utilising a public space – for free!

Why Thomas Stephens Reserve is so important for locals

For offshore residents, Thomas Stephens Reserve is a much-loved, really important part of our daily lives. We move through it every time we go out, whether coming by commuter boat or ferry, as we walk to our cars or the bus. We collect our mail from the postboxes,

drop off our shopping, bags and passengers before parking, buy small items from the two shops, or grab a drink. Beyond the functional purposes, it serves a huge social function. Because everyone goes through the Point, you bump into people unexpectedly and catch up, arrange to meet people, announce events with banners and posters. People settle down on the low tables and have a drink and a chat, children play at the water's edge, boats and ferries come and go. Thomas Stephens Reserve is a place that brings locals together, a genuine village square for people from the various offshore bays and Scotland Island as well as the rather linear settlement along Pittwater and McCarrs Creek roads. There is nowhere else that brings all these disparate mainland and offshore residents together. The steep hills of Church Point and Bayview separate people rather than bring them together. This is the only little public space to serve locals from both sides of the water.

Compromising public amenity

Any place can only have a certain number of visitors before locals stop feeling like its "their" place. Church Point is already beyond that threshold every weekend. Locals no longer even see each other amongst the throngs of bikers, visitors, patrons to the Waterfront Store and Pasadena. This DA makes it likely that locals are crowded out in the weekdays as well. To have a row of people sitting looking out on reserve invades the sense of privacy that encourages people to relax together like locals do in this place.

Four food outlets already! Don't need any more!

There are already four food outlets at Church Point: Pasadena Restaurant, Pasadena store and coffee cart, Waterfront Store and café. This DA is to serve yet more food and drink – directly onto the Reserve. There is no justification for any further such development.

Please protect our reserve

I have lived on Scotland Island for 34 years and Thomas Stephens Reserve is part of my connection to my home, the wider community, this special place. Please use your powers to protect it from further overdevelopment and overvisitation. Reject this DA.