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

07/10/2025

MS Aleksandra Skovrlj
- 10 Boromi WAY
Cromer NSW 2099
[REDACTED]

RE: PEX2025/0001 - 13 Wilga Street INGLESIDE NSW 2101

I am writing as a member of the St Sava Serbian Orthodox Church community, located at 5 Wilson Avenue, Ingleside, to lodge a formal objection to the proposed development of over 500 homes in the Ingleside area.

St Sava is a cornerstone of the Serbian community in the Northern Beaches - a thriving Christian and cultural hub established in 1949, serving thousands of families across generations. It is one of the largest ethnic and faith-based communities in the area, offering worship services, Sunday school, Serbian language classes, dance rehearsals, youth programs, weddings, christenings, funeral services and fundraising events.

This development, accommodating over 500 homes in multi-storey dwellings immediately adjoining the church, poses serious risks to our community's safety, privacy, cultural continuity, and operational viability.

1. Privacy and Safety of Children

More than 160 children regularly attend our church grounds for language, dance, scripture, and cultural classes. The proposed three-storey buildings directly on our fence line will severely compromise their privacy and sense of safety.

Children should be able to play, learn, and worship without feeling watched from neighbouring balconies or windows.

There is no proposal of a buffer zone to preserve privacy and maintain a secure environment for our young participants.

2. Cultural Heritage and Community Identity

St Sava Church has been a beacon of faith, culture, and belonging for the Serbian Orthodox community for over 75 years. It provides critical social, emotional, and spiritual support to one of the Northern Beaches' most established ethnic minority groups.

Allowing a dense residential complex to encircle our sacred and community grounds risks eroding this heritage and could trigger ongoing conflicts between residents unfamiliar with our cultural traditions and long-standing community activities such as singing, bells, festivals,

dancing, and worship.

3. Protection of Operational Rights

Our church's existing programs - including dance, language, scripture, and youth classes - are integral to preserving cultural identity and community connection. These operations must be legally protected from future restrictions or complaints resulting from new residential proximity.

We request that title encumbrances or planning conditions be imposed to safeguard the church's right to continue current and future community activities without interference.

4. Future Growth and Community Facilities

The St Sava community is growing rapidly, and the church requires space to expand its facilities to meet demand. Planned future projects include:

- [] Additional classrooms, changerooms, library, and archive space
- [] Childcare and aged-care facilities to serve our intergenerational community
- [] Limited residential dwellings (townhouses or houses) to support community housing needs.

To support these essential community developments, we request that Council rezone the church property to R3 Medium Density Residential, allowing us to build educational and community facilities in line with our faith and cultural mission.

5. Incompatible Scale and Amenity Impact

The proposed development's density and height are incompatible with the surrounding semi-rural, community-based character of Ingleside.

The scale of over 500 residents will generate traffic congestion, parking pressure, and amenity conflicts along Mona Vale Road and surrounding streets.

This overdevelopment will severely diminish the peaceful and spiritual environment that our parish and local residents currently enjoy.

We respectfully request that Northern Beaches Council:

- [] Reject the proposed development in its current form due to privacy, safety, and cultural incompatibility concerns; or
- [] Require major amendments, including adequate setbacks, green buffers, and sound barriers between the development and the church grounds;
- [] Apply legal and zoning protections to preserve the church's operational and expansion rights; and
- [] Recognise St Sava Serbian Orthodox Church, Ingleside as a site of significant cultural, religious, and community value, deserving of special consideration in local planning.

My family and I have been active members of the St Sava community for over 30 years. Like our family, a lot of the families that attend that church have come to Australia as refugees seeking a better life, which we are so grateful that Australia has given us, and this church allows us to hold on to our faith and culture and be a part of a community that is united in its

continued healing while embracing life in this beautiful country. With weekly liturgies, children's classes, and cultural events that nurture our sense of identity and belonging, for us - and for hundreds of families like ours - St Sava is not just a church; it is a second home.

Preserving its safety, integrity, and future growth is vital to the cultural diversity, inclusion, and spiritual wellbeing of the entire Northern Beaches region.

The proposal at 5 Wilson Avenue threatens the privacy, safety, and freedom of an established community institution that has served Ingleside and the Northern Beaches for over seven decades.

We urge Council to prioritise balanced development that respects the rights, heritage, and contributions of existing community facilities.

Thank you for considering this submission and for your ongoing commitment to protecting spaces of faith, culture, and connection in our community.

Yours sincerely,

Aleksandra Skovrlj