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

07/10/2025

MRS Aleksandra Jelaca
ST
NSW
[REDACTED]

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

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Serbian Orthodox Church of St Sava and our parish community to formally object to the proposed residential development adjacent to our Church and community hall in Ingleside, as outlined in the development application currently before Northern Beaches Council.

Established in 1949, our Church and community centre is a longstanding and vibrant hub for one of the largest ethnic minority communities on the Northern Beaches. Each week, over 160 children participate in programs on our site, including Serbian language classes, traditional dance, and Orthodox Christian scripture. This space plays a vital role in preserving cultural heritage and offering safe, community-focused activities for children and families.

We respectfully urge Council to consider the following key concerns:

1. Privacy and Safety of Children

The proposed two- and three-storey buildings directly bordering our premises pose serious concerns regarding the safety and privacy of children. Balconies and upper-storey windows would overlook areas where children gather to learn, play, and engage in cultural activities. This creates an unacceptable level of surveillance in a space dedicated to child development and wellbeing. Children must be able to participate in programs without feeling observed or exposed to strangers.

2. Need for a Buffer Zone

We strongly advocate for the inclusion of a buffer zone between the proposed development and our Church grounds. This could take the form of a public road, open space, or a landscaped reserve, offering essential physical and visual separation. Without this buffer, the unique atmosphere of our site-and the safety, privacy, and sense of belonging it provides-will be significantly compromised.

3. Rezoning of Church Land to R3

In light of the proposed density of the surrounding development, we request that our Church land be rezoned to R3 - Medium Density Residential, in line with our long-term master plan. This would enable future development of much-needed facilities such as additional classrooms, change rooms, a library, archival space, aged care services, childcare, and limited residential dwellings to support our congregation's needs.

4. Protection of Existing and Permissible Uses

We seek assurance that the existing permissible uses of our land under the current zoning will be preserved without interference. Our Church has operated continuously for over 75 years, and it is essential that any new development does not limit or disrupt established activities, including church services, cultural events, educational programs, and community gatherings. Incoming residents must be aware of and accept the longstanding nature of these activities.

5. Title Encumbrances to Protect Church Operations

To safeguard the future operation of our community centre, we request that encumbrances or covenants be included on the titles of surrounding lots. These would formally acknowledge the pre-existing nature of our site's activities and prevent future legal or regulatory objections-particularly related to noise or events-by future residents.

6. Historic and Ongoing Community Contribution

The Serbian Orthodox Church of St Sava is far more than a place of worship. It is a multi-generational community centre that has supported thousands of families across the Northern Beaches for over seven decades. Many of us were raised within this community and are now raising our children here. The site is deeply embedded in our personal, cultural, and communal identity.

We urge Council to acknowledge and respect the historical significance, cultural value, and ongoing contribution of our Church and to ensure that any future development incorporates appropriate planning safeguards to protect this unique and essential community space. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.