
Sent: 18/05/2021 12:29:47 PM
Subject: DA submission
Attachments: 50 Starkey St submission.doc;

Dear David & Livia,

I do not participate in online meetings, particularly given that there are no covid restrictions against having them in council premises. I will therefore decline the offer to speak at the meeting and hope that you will instead encourage each member of the panel to read my attached submission. I shall certainly check the minutes to see if any comments pertaining to my submission were forthcoming.

Yours

John Gercken
48 Starkey St
Forestville NSW 2087

To: NBLPP
From: John & Bernadette Gercken of 48 Starkey St
Re: DA2020/1466
Date: 18/05/2021

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Please forgive our late and rushed submission however it appears that my wife and I have continually been kept out of the loop regarding this application, and indeed it was only by chance that we were even made aware of this meeting yesterday.

Our objection to the DA concerning 50 Starkey St is quite simple. Council cannot guarantee and in fact openly admit that should this DA be approved they have no control whatsoever of what desirable or undesirable persons will be allowed to reside next door in the future.

The current tenants, Sunnyfield, to their credit tried to have an amendment attached to the DA that would restrict the group home to only those with a disability, however this has been denied.

We are a low density purely residential area populated by large numbers of children and the elderly. Cook St, almost immediately opposite 50 Starkey St, has a number of aged care centres and Starkey St itself is a prime walking route for both primary and secondary students going to and from school. Despite the clear vulnerability of these people, approval of this DA would permit the use of a group home in the future for such people as persons seeking safe have from violent partners, former drug addicts and criminals, people with possibly violent mental conditions, and other "socially disadvantaged" people.

Surely group homes catering for these people would be better located on major thoroughfares such as Warringah Rd, where constant 24/7 passing traffic would make them more visible than hiding them away on our quiet back streets.

My wife and I have been very tolerant with the current disabled tenants, even after finding that they were not actually authorised to be living there, and would be quite happy for that situation to remain. We are very disappointed that Council, rather than looking for ways to keep things as is, dismissed the request by Sunnyfield for a simple amendment without any serious consideration.

Given that Sunnyfield cannot guarantee that they will retain the address as a disabled group home into the future, and that Council agree that once this DA is approved they would have no legal avenues whatsoever to stop the address from changing from a disable group home to a group home of far less desirable residents who would put the surrounding area and the local community at risk, my wife and I must object in the strongest terms to the approval of this DA.