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05/06/2025

MR Matthew Murray
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[REDACTED]

RE: DA2024/1303 - 11 / 0 Melwood Avenue FORESTVILLE NSW 2087

The updated plans for Forestville RSL Club appear to more positively rebalance things, with more outdoor space and more realistic looking design for social and bar areas, which is welcome. However, for me there are still some critical issues requiring clarification.

1.. The plans need to provide a clearer description of the internal wall between the Pokies area (i.e. where it says Indoor Gaming on plans) and the seating/restaurant/social area to the south. Currently the plan (Stage 1, the Club, DA_A_1100) shows this area divided by a mere fine line and a strange long rectangular block, at least 7m long. Neither of these features are solid walls, nor even annotated to explain what they are.

My concern is that this is a purposely ambiguous dividing arrangement to allow later opening up of this space to basically 'show off' the Pokies and at worst provide a 'royal entrance' to them. I do not want my children seeing those corrupting machines. The clear separation between visible Pokies and where you sit with families needs to be hard-designed with a very clear, solid, continuous brick wall, with no gaps in it.

2.. Furthermore, the access to the Pokies should be via a private, more anonymous side door at the entrance, not in through the family/bar areas.

3.. There should be no Alfresco (i.e. smoking) Pokies area. Based on the currently existing Pokies smoking area, I suspect this is designed to somehow technically be 'outdoor' for Pokies smoking, yet to have the enclosure, comfort and feel of indoors. Why are we doing this in our community? Hardly anyone smokes here. It is just another way of arguing for more Pokies space. The smoking Pokies area needs removing and the extra space used to make the green outdoor family area bigger.

4.. Finally, the Club argues publicly that the plans are about 'diversifying' away from Pokies and that they are a family orientated. However, the main Pokies area still looks to be the main feature of the Club if not bigger. Increasing other revenues to argue that even more Pokies is still diversifying is not what most local people took to be the meaning of diversification!