

THE DARLING POINT SOCIETY INC

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The Hon Dominic Perrottet
Premier of New South Wales

1 August 2022

Dear Minister

I am writing about the plan by Woollahra Municipal Council (WMC) to construct a skateboard facility in Rushcutters Bay Park – Darling Point.

After a six year battle to stop WMC erecting a skateboard facility in Rushcutters Bay Park, 1600 signatures tabled in Parliament, another 3000 signatures by the residents, 2 years of silence, we are told that in 2 days a meeting of the Finance Services Community committee is discussing a 200 page document to go ahead with the structure in Rushcutters Bay Park.

I attach my letter to WMC for your information to be presented at tonight's meeting of the Finance Services Committee.

Every resident in the area believed that it had been stopped and found out and to their utter disappointment, WMC notified that it was back on the table with 2 days notice.

Our main objections are as follows:

- No forecast and the actual cost to be borne by ratepayers or private financing
- No consideration of future green space need for residents especially recovering from COVID
- The appropriation of previous green space for minority
- Aggravated noise of wheels on concrete and shouting
- The doubtful half life of skateparks in other locations
- Serious health and safety risk to very young children
- Risk of graffiti stains
- Inadequate provision for 24 hour supervision
- Layer of clay and concrete depriving tree roots of aeration
- Availability of other sites
- Funding

The facility has required many expert reports and heritage research. Because the park is Heritage listed as well as the stonewall which runs alongside until the Point, according to the Heritage Act there are limitations to what can be constructed and a Heritage Impact Statement must be submitted to get a Section 60 allowing the construction to go ahead.

One of the S60 regulations states that the construction must not exceed \$150,000. The planned construction is quoted at above \$1.8 million. WMC has already spent close to \$500,000 in consulting fees.

The HIS sums up its findings " the proposed facility will impact the original open areas of the park and have a cumulative impact on the open character of the park, providing another active park facility with built infrastructure".

The main disappointment is the lack of transparency of WMC, they don't release their plans until the last minute and any information requested is dismissed with some excuse.

The Society is appalled at the lack of transparency of the Woollahra council and their general trend to favour the destruction of heritage areas by developers, as well as erecting a skateboard park in a heritage listed foreshore park.

We appreciate any support you may be able to give the Society to save our beautiful foreshore green space,

Yours sincerely,

Charlotte Feldman
President
Darling Point Society Inc.