

INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I would like to make a submission to the NSW Parliament regarding the proposed redevelopment of the Bondi Beach Pavilion by Waverley Council.

It is my understanding that the current \$38million plan does not retain the Bondi Pavilion space as a public recreation space, in line with its dedicated purpose under the Crown Lands Act, and will result in significantly less space for community use.

Bondi Pavilion is an unique and vastly important community and cultural public heritage space for members of this community and more broadly. It contributes to the unique heritage of Bondi Beach which sits on land known as Bondi Park, this is land that is classified as Crown Land and was dedicated for the purposes of public recreation in January 1938.

The Park is governed by the Bondi Park Reserve Trust under section 92 of the Crown Lands Act 1989. Waverley Council manages the affairs of the Trust and is responsible for the care, control and management of the Park on behalf of the Minister for Lands

The key objective of the Crown Lands Act is “to ensure that Crown land is managed for the benefit of the people of New South Wales”. Current plans for the Bondi Pavilion shift the purpose of the building from a community building for public recreation to a commercial precinct, this is not consistent with the purpose of Crown Land or with the desires of the majority of people within the community whom are served by the building.

Waverley Council have adopted the 2014 Plan of Management (POM) for the Bondi Park, Beach and Pavilion. The POM is approved by State Government to ensure that the land is managed for public interest and benefit. The POM supported a restoration and repair of Bondi Pavilion at a cost of \$10million not a takeover of Bondi Pavilion at a cost of \$38million.

Bondi Pavilion is on the State Heritage Register due to its “State significance as an iconic representation of the Australian beach experience” and any “major changes” to a heritage item require approval by the Heritage Council of NSW. There is nobody in the community who objects to the use of Heritage approved architects to restore and improve the pavilion but there is a significant cohort who object to the wholesale reallocation of community-use space to commercial use.