

**Submission
No 291**

INQUIRY INTO CROWN LAND IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Mrs Jane Broderick

Date received: 25 July 2016

Submission for the planned upgrade of the Bondi Pavilion

My family and I are long term residents of Bondi Beach (more than 20 years), and the Bondi Pavilion plays a significant and important role in our everyday lives. For us it represents the heart and soul of our community and there is not a family or person that we know who lives in Bondi that has not benefitted from the community and or cultural programmes provided at the Pavilion. My ten year old daughter has danced there for 6 years of her life. She started there with "Baby Ballet" as a 3 year old with the wonderful Miss Tracy and she now dances there up to 5 hours a week with Bondi Dance Company. Her friends also participate in dance classes, pottery classes, acting classes, music and capoeira. I myself participate in the Zumba classes and "No Lights No Lycra".

There are over 600 children attending the local school across the road from the Pavilion and it therefore serves as a much needed community resource for them, as well as hundreds of other children living in or near Bondi Beach. I cannot express strongly enough how important it is for us as a community to preserve this much loved building for the benefit of the whole community and especially our kids. We are living in an increasingly sedentary society with a growing epidemic of type 2 diabetes and an unacceptable level of youth suicide and it would be extremely short sighted to sacrifice this wonderful facility that has served our community so well for more than 50 years because of the vested interest of a few.

We as a community fear that this proposed upgrade of Crown Land is nothing short of privatisation by stealth and having attended all the council meetings since the upgrade was announced I am extremely disappointed with the absolute contempt shown towards the community and towards councillors trying to represent the wishes of the community as well as the complete lack of transparency or community consultation.

Although a modest upgrade of the Bondi Pavilion is long overdue, the onus is on Waverley Council to represent the wishes of the community that pay the rates and to not waste our money on something that is of no benefit to the majority of residents or visitors. The upgrade also needs to be staged so that there is limited or no loss of facilities as there are no alternative venues available and there is a concern that once the current activities cease there is no time line as to when they will be able to recommence or if in fact they will recommence.

In summary I have quoted the following points in regards to The Bondi Pavilion being of National Heritage significance and on Crown land.

"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 iconic community and cultural public heritage building
- 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.
- 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 “