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Objection to Development Application SSD-93020230 at 40-48 Redan Street, Mosman

Personal Impact Statement

Dear Ms. Ross,

I am writing this to share my deep, personal objection to the proposed 10-storey development at 40-48 Redan Street, Mosman. I am submitting this statement because I need you to understand that for those of us living right next to this, it is not just a minor inconvenience, or a worry about how the street will look. For me, it genuinely threatens my ability to function physically, my mental wellbeing, and everything I've built for my future.

The Physical and Mental Toll

The reality of this proposed development has been a dark cloud that has cornered me into a relentless cycle of anxiety and depression. On top of that, the heavy burden of this has constantly overwhelmed me with worry for my future. There are times now when the road ahead feels so incredibly dark and hopeless that just the thought of trying to get through it feels unbearable.

This deep emotional and psychological agony is also taking a physical toll on my body. I have a chronic back injury. Even through professional management, as well as day-to-day self-management of preventative routines, the connection between perpetuating mental strain and acute physical flare-ups of the ruptured discs in my lower back is evident, persistent, and regrettably unavoidable. The mere worry from the scale of disruption this proposed development will inevitably inflict has already brought on a noticeable re-occurrence of these episodes of physical debilitation, leaving me unable to get through most days without experiencing substantial bodily pain. Please understand, when these physical setbacks occur, as a 33-year-old woman faced with the inability to do the most basic of things independently such as walk up or down stairs, shower, use the bathroom, or even sit correctly on a chair, it is hard to not feel ashamed, frustrated, and vulnerable.

Facing three years of living in the immediate shadow of a major construction zone, while at the same time struggling to accept the permanent disfigurement and financial implications this development will have on my home is not only emotionally unsettling; it threatens to physically trap me in my own body, and put at risk the basic ability for me to be able to look after myself.

This proposal means losing everything my family and I have worked so hard for, and due to my physical ailments, will severely impact my ability to independently succeed in the future. Together with my family, we have poured the last five years of our lives, passion, and savings into the recent completion of our home build. We have carefully planned every single inch of our property to be a permanent, safe haven for us; a crucial goal being to foster support for my disabilities in order to ensure that my quality of life is on par with a young woman who has been lucky enough to not share a similar experience.

Destroying a Space Built for Healing

Please see the images below to understand the geographical impact this proposed development will have on our property:

BEFORE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



AFTER PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



BEFORE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



AFTER PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



BEFORE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



AFTER PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT



The sheer scale of this development will completely devastate the surroundings that make our home a liveable space. We will be entirely stripped of our privacy in internal areas where windows look directly out to the proposed development, as well as from every single external area of the home. I frequently rely on our pool for preventative care and vital pain management. Knowing that the windows of the proposed development will look directly onto our pool is nothing short of dehumanising; it forces me to manage my severe, embarrassing physical limitations in full view of strangers, stripping away my basic right to privacy and dignity.

It is also of utmost concern that the proposed development will eclipse our home's natural light. For someone trying to combat depression, natural light is not a luxury; it is a vital necessity to stay afloat, to keep the wolf from the door. I struggle to put into words how it feels knowing that the home we carefully designed to serve as a deterrent to the maladies of mental health, a means to unashamedly increase my overall quality of life, is to be thrown into permanent shadow, while simultaneously leaving us unable to seek refuge from an unavoidable absence of privacy.

It is one thing to realise the crushing reality that these painstaking years of careful planning, devotion, and capitalisation towards the construction of our home are about to be overshadowed, de-valued, and undone by a 10-storey building. It is another thing to be robbed of the very real therapeutic support for which our home was constructed to provide.

The Daily Reality of Construction, Traffic and Access Limitations

Finally, should this proposed development proceed, the realities of supporting such a large increase to the local population with the current public transport infrastructure in Mosman are impossible to argue. It is very concerning that there has been no proposed planning of supportive measures for additional transport infrastructure. I, like many others living in Mosman, rely on my car every day to get to work. If the proposed development is to proceed, not only will the radical change to my home-life leave me feeling trapped by unique mental and physical impairment, but my family and I also have a very real fear of being trapped to the extent that we will be unable to easily get into/out of our home, or commute to our jobs without a daily internal fight.

Aside from the practical reality of living engulfed by a three-year, heavy construction zone, and the torment of using a blocked laneway as the only means to leave our home, it would be detrimental for me to not acknowledge the long-term personal implications that will result from the permanent theft of my time, daily routine, and basic freedom; a theft that will serve

to forever catalyse a continuous deteriorative impact to my mental/physical health, and overall quality of life. The fallout from this is another devastating setback to what the completed construction of our property was built to secure.

Conclusion

If this proposed development were to proceed, the grounds for which the construction of our home were devoted to accomplish will not only be nullified; I now fear its foundations may permanently have the adverse effect of what they initially set out to achieve.

This proposed development has, is, and will only continue to force me into feelings of inescapable helplessness, hopelessness, and profound isolation. I am certain that the significant loss of light, privacy, and ease of accessibility will significantly contribute to a severe decline in my own mental health and my quality of life.

I beg you to look past the plans, the figures, and please see the devastating human cost this 10-storey building will have on the real people like myself whose lives are being turned upside down. I implore you to please reject this proposal.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Caroline Olesnicky