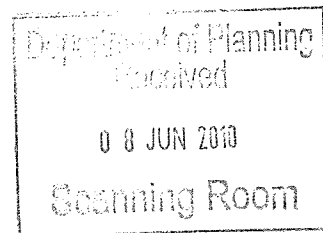


179 George Street
Redfern
NSW 2016

2 June 2010

The Director, Government Land and Social Projects
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
Sydney
NSW 2001



Dear Sir,

MP 06_0267 MOD 6

I am writing to express my objection to the proposed extension of the closing time for the Eora Sports Centre from 10pm to 12 midnight for 16 Friday nights per annum.

There has already been significant scope creep to this project and extension of opening hours.

- Prior to redevelopment we had a Primary School with operating hours of 9am to 4pm
- The initial development proposal significantly extended those hours to 7am to 10pm
- Before the centre even opened, a further extension was made to open 6am to 10pm
- Now there is a proposal to stay open even later.

This redevelopment is in the middle of a residential area. As residents, we were told that there would be little impact in converting the site from a Primary School to the NCIE; however there have been a number of adverse impacts already including:

- Inadequate and unsafe traffic management, particularly in the evenings
- Inadequate street and public parking arrangements given the incorrect assumptions made in the initial EA
- Regular noise annoyance as parents and friends double park outside the centre and sound their horns to attract friends and family
- Regular double parking by buses as they pick up and drop off from outside the main gate in George Street (where no "Bus Zone" area has been established) rather than using the proper bus parking area on Phillip Street.
- No obvious visible security outside the site, with people regularly congregating in the street and loud arguments/ fighting on an almost daily basis

Approval of this application would most likely result in further noise pollution, street brawls and more traffic noise. Given the centre currently "closes" at 10pm, there is considerable noise pollution created by people leaving/being picked up between 10pm and 11pm; so extending the operating hours to midnight would see this noise carry through to 1am. I see no reason why residents should be expected to accept even more inconvenience simply because the Department of Planning thinks that we have no rights. Compensation claim actions may be necessary if this continues.

I have also attached for your information a letter which I submitted on 3 May 2010 which provides more details on the street parking and traffic issues – I am unsure whether this has been received or not as I have not yet had even the courtesy of a reply acknowledging receipt.

Yours sincerely

David Smullen

179 George St
Redfern
NSW 2016

3 May 2010

Ms Megan Fu
Senior Planner
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
Sydney
NSW 2001

Dear Ms Fu

NCIE, 160-202 George Street, Redfern

I am writing to express my frustration at the enormous adverse impact of the NCIE on parking in the area.

- **Environment Assessment 2007**

The original submission in 2006/7 included:

1. (7.5.2) that traffic impact would be minimal as the majority of people using the Centre live locally and would walk to the Centre or catch public transport. This claim / assumption has proven to be completely incorrect in light of the traffic situation since the Centre opened.
2. (4.11) there would be 26 on-site spaces for staff and visitors associated with activities on the site, with the forecasted traffic impact of 37 spaces (in 7.5.2) being sufficiently catered for by the on site parking. These are hardly ever used.
3. (7.5.3) the recommendation that there be a 20 metre long kerb on the George Street frontage to enable pick-up and set-down – this has not been done.
4. Section 8, Draft statement of Commitments, item AA advised that “subject to endorsement by the Sydney Traffic Committee, kerbside parking arrangements .. are to be reconfigured .. to provide for bus parking and deliveries to the site”. Has this been considered by the Traffic Committee, and are they aware of the safety dangers of this not having been implemented?

- **Current Status**

Since the Centre opened, parking in the street has been very difficult with most of George Street full for much of the day 7 days a week, including evenings, and frequent double parking by cars as children / friends are dropped off and picked up from the Centre and deliveries are made. Ironically,

- the two car parks on the NCIE site off Philip Street are normally only occupied by perhaps 2 cars in total.
- the NCIE car park built off the turning area in Renwick St is normally also only occupied by 1-2 cars
- deliveries to the site such as drinks, vending machine, etc all double park outside the main gate
- tradesmen working on the site regularly park all day in the street – rather than in the off-street car park

- there has been no increase in the usage of the public car park between Renwick St and Cope St
- staff at the Centre appear to park in the street
- there seems to be few visits by council parking inspectors as I often see cars parked by Centre visitors/staff first thing in the morning (before the centre is open) and still in the same spot at night, with no parking tickets.

- **Action required**

As the planning document compared the Centre with other similar public facilities such as the Ian Thorpe Aquatic Centre and the Cook and Phillip Pool, I would suggest that local parking arrangements be introduced similar to those at those other facilities. I suggest:

1. that all current parking restrictions on George Street between Albert and Philip Streets immediately be changed to 1 hour parking 8am-10pm 7 days a week except for residents with Area 41 parking permits
2. the area on the western side of George Street directly outside the gates to the Centre be made a setting down area only, with no parking
3. the rest of the current parking area on the western side of George Street outside the Centre be changed to restricted or meter parking with a limit of 1 hour parking between 8am and 10pm 7 days a week
4. street parking on the eastern side of George Street between Albert Street and Philip Street be converted to restricted or meter parking with a limit of 30 minutes between 8am and 10pm 7 days a week, with an exception for residents with Area 41 parking permits
5. the Centre be encouraged to have their staff park in the car parking on site at the Philip Street end of the complex
6. the Centre encourage visitors to park in the public parking available in the Renwick Street / Cope Street car park and ensure that the entrance to the Centre from Renwick Street is open at all times that the Centre is open (which is not currently the case).
7. traffic wardens be encouraged to police the area much more regularly to discourage the current behaviour where many cars are street parked all day
8. any instances when a Council Ranger finds double parking should be fined immediately; the fire station is in the street and such parking causes not just inconvenience but also a public danger.

I have sent a copy of this letter to Mr James Ellender, the Centre Manager.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours faithfully

Cc: City of Sydney, Parking Enforcement
Mr James Ellender, Facilities Manager, NCIE

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