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Date: 19/05/2015 11:53 AM
Subject: 2015/16 Sutherland Shire Budget submission

Dear Mr Major and Councillors,

I am a constituent in your Ward and I rugby league at Como Jannali Junior Rugby League football club; our club house is situated on Scylla Oval. Currently, the Sutherland Council’s 2015/2016 budget is on exhibition for public comment and it is for that purpose I implore yourselves and other Councillors to allocate or re-allocate (if need be) the funds in the 2015/16 budget for the urgent re-construction of our clubhouse; this project is of utmost importance so to protect the health and safety of the kids and the patrons at Como Jannali Junior Rugby League Football Club and to deal with various associated social issues.

I would like to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the dire circumstances our community club currently faces, every time there is a heavy rain event the oval floods as well as our club house. Worst of all is when the flood is particularly large the sewer surcharges through the floor waste's/gulley's in the building and into areas where food is stored and handled, the club loses stock and suffers equipment damage every time; we are a club of modest means raising our meagre revenue from sausage sizzles and canteen sales we simply cannot afford such losses or to employee hazardous substance clean-up crews after each flood event to make the building safe.

Most importantly and due to the sewer and mud residues left in the Club house after large flood events the Club house is simply not fit for purpose or for that matter even fit for occupation. The risk of a patron or child contracting gastroenteritis, Hepatitis or other infections (staph) is high and very real; it is a major concern to everybody that uses this Council facility and an issue commonly discussed on the sidelines.

In addition to the WHS issues, the Clubhouse is simply outdated, there are no change rooms for competing teams. This in itself raises an unacceptable social issue with older away teams preparing to play football and changing after the games in public spaces. We are all aware of the child protection obligations placed onto clubs these days and the scenario of one (1) change room makes it all but impossible to fulfil those obligations. We must update the club house and changing facilities if the Club is to comply with current laws.

The Club is currently trying to secure grants from other sources to expedite this urgent project however without the financial commitment from Council this project it simply cannot happen, I urge you to allocate funds in the 2015/16 budget for our project, it is of imperative that we confront the social issues and eliminate the unsatisfactory health and safety risk to our players, our kids and the community in general.

Thank you,