

## Summary report of public notification

<b>Project name</b>	Licence - Newport Rugby Club and Newport Junior Rugby Club Inc
<b>Your Say notification period</b>	Friday 17 February to Thursday 16 March 2023
<b>Background</b>	<p>Porter Reserve is home to Newport Rugby Club and Newport Junior Rugby Club. Council has been working with the clubs to construct a <a href="#">new Porter Reserve Clubhouse Changespace</a> adjacent to the existing clubhouse which is expected to be complete by Easter, 2023 weather permitting.</p> <p>In preparation for its completion, we proposed to grant a five (5) year licence agreement to each of the clubs to formalise their exclusive storage areas and shared use of the clubhouse and amenities for the purposes of sport and recreation activities and activities ancillary to the core use.</p>
<b>Total number of submissions</b>	Five (5)
<b>Summary of findings</b>	<p>The feedback collected during the notification period showed strong community support for the proposal to grant the licences to Newport Rugby and Newport Junior Rugby Clubs.</p> <p>All submissions were supportive of the licences, however two raised concerns around the noise to neighbours surrounding the grounds, lighting infrastructure. Noise has been addressed in the licence conditions. Lighting is outside the scope of the licences, but the concerns have been referred to Council's Parks and Recreation department.</p>
<b>Approach</b>	<p>The engagement was planned, implemented and reported in accordance with the Northern Beaches Council <a href="#">Community Engagement Strategy</a> (2022), and Division 3.4, Section 3.22 of the Crown Land Management Act 2016 and Section 47A of the Local Government Act 1993.</p> <p>A project page<sup>1</sup> was established on our Have Your Say platform and included project information and the road reserve closure area plan.</p> <p>The project was primarily promoted through resident letter notifications and our Have Your Say community engagement newsletter.</p> <p>Feedback was captured through an online submission form embedded onto the project page. An open-field comments</p>

<sup>1</sup> <https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/licence-newport-rugby-club-newport-junior-rugby-club-inc>

	box provided community members a space to share their comments. Email and written submissions were also invited. Contact details were provided should people have questions.
<b>How we engaged</b>	
<b>Properties notified by letter</b>	62 letters
<b>Authorities notified by email</b>	N/A
<b>Visitors to Your Say page</b>	183
<b>Have Your Say newsletter</b>	1 edition (newsletter distribution approx. 22,000)

<b>Findings</b>	
<b>Verbatim submission*</b>	<b>Council Response</b>
On behalf of the Newport Residents Association we support the granting of a 5 year licence agreement to the Newport Rugby club and the Newport Junior rugby club at Porters Reserve as per the Northern Beaches Council proposal.	Council notes support of the proposal.
<p>I do support the granting of a licence for both Newport Rugby Club and Junior Rugby Club.</p> <p>The grounds are in a perfect spot for members of our community to gather and enjoy and foster Rugby and associated activities.</p> <p>As well as this there is a local historic connection with the ground and club which ought be maintained.</p> <p>Congratulations to the many dedicated supporters who have strived to make the Club what it is today and their foresight in updating and creating ways to continue the life and maintain and upgrade the facilities of this treasured local Club.</p>	Council notes support of the proposal.
<p>'PA2017/0103 - Licence of Newport Rugby Club'</p> <p>I support the granting of the licence. The Newport Rugby Club is a long standing and important part of life in Newport, and the development of the club should be assisted in every way possible.</p>	Council notes support of the proposal.

## Findings

I have no problem with the proposals, but we live among other residents in the “amphitheatre” above Porters Reserve and have often endured loud music and the effects of the exceptionally high and bright floodlights.

If there are strict provisions in the licence which limit operating times and noise, I think it will benefit the members.

Additionally, if the tall floodlights are aimed down or lowered like they used to be, we will all be happy.

Thank you.

The proposed licences have conditions regarding noise control, such as Clause 6.2 (e) of the proposed licences require the clubs to ensure their use of the buildings *does not create offensive noise...*

Further, Clause 6.2 (g) states the clubs *must make sure that they with all relevant laws about health, safety, noise and other standards for the premises.*

As to field lightings, it is outside of the scope of the proposed licences, thus the enquiry has been referred Council's Parks and Recreation department for review and consideration.

We are writing to you regarding the letter received on the 15th February 2023 (REF 2023/040983) to express our concerns relating to the granting of a license to the Newport Rugby Club.

[REDACTED]

In our many years at this address we have both enjoyed the sport and sense of community the club has established and also made some complaints regarding late night social activities at the club house. The main issues have been late night parties after rugby days, where loud music and singing carries on well after 10pm. The location is a natural amphitheatre, especially with the quarry nearby, and noise amplifies and carries up the hill to homes on Hillside and beyond.

The social activity of the club seems to have increased, especially in the months/ year past Covid lockdowns. The use of microphones to announce game action and club information during matches has also been introduced. All of this indicates an evolution of the club from simple grassroots community sport towards professionalisation. It has changed the dynamic of

Please refer to the above response regarding noise and trading hours.

## Findings

this quiet residential part of Newport and it is disruptive to residents.

The other issue has been the use of lighting, with bright spotlights on the club's exterior shining right into [REDACTED] windows. These are sometimes left on all night.

Our position on the license would not be to totally oppose it but we would be very concerned if the license granted the club the right to stay open after 10pm on Friday or Saturday nights, given the quiet residential zoning. If strict conditions on the management of noise, lighting and operating hours came with the license then it could perhaps assist in the club's compliance with EPA laws and certainly give residents more confidence that their concerns about late night activities would be heard and acted on.

If the license is granted for later than 10pm then unfortunately we would oppose it. This fundamentally changes the environment for residents, not only in the noise from the venue, talking from smokers outside but also adds significant traffic congestion to a quiet street. People leaving loudly in vehicles would no doubt become an issue.

Should the council make a decision outside of the scenarios we are requesting, then we would hope that there might be a temporary license granted that provides residents and the club's community the opportunity to learn about the impacts and provide more feedback.

*\*Personal details have been redacted where possible. Spelling and grammatical errors have been amended only where misinterpretation or offence may be caused.*

Document administration	
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Notes	Community and stakeholder views contained in this report do not necessarily reflect the views of the Northern Beaches Council or indicate a commitment to a particular course of action.