



NORTHBRIDGE
PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Working for the advancement of Northbridge since 1919

ABN 41 733 956 702

PO Box 357 Northbridge 2063

January 17 2012

Ms Melanie Cowles
Recreation Projects Manager
Willoughby City Council
PO Box 57
CHATSWOOD NSW 2057

Dear Ms Cowles

Re: Clive Park playground improvements

Thank you for your letter of December 9 inviting NPA to comment on proposed improvements to the playground in Clive Park. We have discussed your letter with several NPA members and with the Bushcare group which helps to preserve the bushland in Clive Park.

We commend Council for its efforts to improve recreational facilities in Northbridge for the community's benefit.

In the case of these proposed improvements, we are uncertain about the need for an additional playground in Northbridge and, if there is a need, where it should be located. Our perception is that the current Warners Park and Roche Park playgrounds are not well used.

It is also our impression that the residential area around Clive Park is among the highest value property in Willoughby and does not have a large population of children who would use an improved playground. It is our observation that the current playground in Clive Park (and Clive Park itself) are seldom used by children now.


By comparison, Northbridge Baths are now open freely to the public, they are very popular in summer with hundreds of local children, there is ample parking and there would be no threat to natural bushland. Part of the grassed area could readily be used for a playground.

NPA recommends that Council takes a broad, suburb-wide view of playground needs and locations in Northbridge, and also consults with potential users – parents of small children – about their needs before making a decision on this matter.

In regard to the specific proposals at Clive Park, one of our concerns is the potential loss of bushland and open space through a new playground development. We assume that use of the partially cleared site in Minimbah Rd would require a fenced playground area which would change its amenity substantially. The use of that site is opposed by the Clive Park Bushcare group and by at least one nearby resident. We expect the site would also be opposed by members of Northbridge Sailing Club who use it intensively for parking on summer Sundays.

NPA recommends that, if Council proceeds with playground improvements in Clive Park, that the existing playground in Clive Park be improved, but **minimally**, without significantly expanding its footprint or destroying natural bushland.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter McNair', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter McNair
President

Copy: Sailors Bay Ward Councillors
Mr Steven Head
Ms Julie Whitfield

*Northbridge Progress Association has operated continuously since 1919.
At December 2011, the Association had 464 members.*