

Keith Ward

I am a past President of Cronulla RSL Soccer Club and currently sit on the executive of the Sutherland Shire Football Association.

My concern relates to the parking available to the users of Solander Playing fields adjacent to the Woolooware Bay development.

The first stage of the development of Woolooware Bay is already having significant impact on the availability of parking at Solander Playing fields. Council have been inconsistent in closing off part of the car park so users of the fields have somewhere to park.

There are signs of growing conflict between the users of the fields and residents of Woolooware Bay.

Planning Department regulations limiting parking in the development has not led to a reduction in car use. I strongly urge any approval be granted with a SIGNIFICANT increase in resident parking.

Simply put, if people cannot park within a reasonable distance of the playing fields it will be a deterrent to our members to play for our Club.

Thank you for taking into consideration my concerns.

My comments reflect my personal views based on my experience as a past President of Cronulla RSL Soccer Club and current Vice President of the Sutherland Shire Football Association.

Firstly, as one supportive of the initial development I have no objection to the development, per se, however my comments go to the inadequate consideration of the limited availability of parking proposed. The impact of the development on the parking, at what is a precinct for junior sport, has not been addressed at all. The proposal will be incomplete until this issue has been properly addressed,

Adjacent to Stage 1 of the development are the Solander playing fields used intensively for Soccer, Cricket and Oz Tag. Across the road are the Captain Cook playing fields used for Rugby League, OzTag and Softball. Together these fields represent one of the larger sporting precincts in the Sutherland Shire.

While there is detailed analysis for the impact of the development on traffic flows, the impact on local parking is inadequate. There is acknowledgement that the first stage of the development has had a significant impact on parking availability for users of the sporting fields. There are already issues, and this will only magnify as the number of residences increase.

The proposed solution to the problem is based on promoting behavioural change, as residents move to owning fewer cars and Council imposing and enforcing parking restrictions at the Council playing fields. In the analysis there is no commentary on the tension between owners of the units and users of the sporting fields.

Given this is potentially such a significant issue for the amenity of the playing fields, surely it should have been given greater attention. The proposed solution, behaviour change and Council action to me appears inadequate. At a minimum there should be a review of the success or otherwise of the Council parking restrictions. Residents alert to the presence of Council rangers will move cars to avoid being fined. In addition, the use of street parking is now contested between residents and users of the playing fields. The extent of this problem is not analysed.

Given the problem of parking for sporting fields is acknowledged as an issue, the impacts study in my opinion does not adequately analyse the issue, nor does it provide a meaningful solution to the problem.