

OBJECTION: Proposed Amendment to the Sydney Regional Environmental Plan N0 33 (COOKS COVE SREP)

Please accept this submission on behalf of **Keep Sydney Beautiful**. Keep Sydney Beautiful is a grassroots community group with some 1,000 followers across Sydney, including the Bayside Council area. We support sensitively managed development that respects Sydney's unique natural environment and rich cultural history.

We note the increased development and population density in this area of Sydney and are concerned about the loss of genuine public open green space, needed by such a large population, many of who will be living in small apartments.

The site in question site is **public land**. The current SREP 33 fundamentally protects the land from development and preserves it for public use as well as for environment.

This means the public can use this space safely, uninterrupted by any other activity. The proposed private golf course will not allow children or general public free access to safe free play or interact safely with nature across the site.

Should a golf course be determined on this site, the other activities that exist will be impacted. This includes cycle tracks, fishing, walking areas, dog walking areas, bird watching areas including Landing Lights and Spring Street wetlands. It will impact passive recreation, picnics etc. Golf balls are dangerous even with fencing and the public should not be afraid of being hit by a golf ball when walking in the area.

The proposed amendment seeks to include Recreation facility as an additional permitted use on land in the southern portion. This is currently known as Barton Park and is zoned Special Uses.

A golf course is defined as a Recreational Facility and as such it was not permissible development on land marked Special uses within Barton Park. The developer argues that as other recreation uses are carried out in that area, a golf course should be allowed. However a golf course is exclusive and will impact other public activities as well as the wildlife.

The majority of lands in Bayside West are Barton Park. These are Crown lands and Section 10 of the Crown Lands Act seeks to ensure that Crown land is managed for the benefit of the people of NSW and the Principles of the Crown Land management (Section 14) underpin the management and use of Crown Land.

We are concerned that if granted, the Amendment may result in full control of land in the northern precinct resulting in the loss of public land and open space.

We are also concerned with the transparency of the planning process. We note Bayside Council has been referred to Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC). We also note that Department of Planning has prejudiced the outcome by stating

Recreational areas are currently within the special uses zone. Therefore, the inclusion of recreational facilities as a separate land use in this same zone is appropriate “

It is not possible to compare an expansive private golf course that will take over much of the public open space with the small number of community sports facilities deliberately found on one location.

This rationale undermines the public’s confidence in the decision making process. We would like to remind the Department of Planning of the following definition.

A golf course is defined as a Recreational Facility and as such it was not permissible development on land marked Special uses within Barton Park.

The need for the community to access public green open space for a variety of uses, for their health and well-being, should be uppermost in the decision making process. **The public should have access to public, green open space for a variety of recreational activities and passive recreation in a SAFE environment.** A golf course should be refused therefore the Proposed Amendment should be refused.

Keep Sydney Beautiful

