



THE ROYAL SYDNEY GOLF CLUB

Submission of Amended Development Application for the Championship Course

Dear Neighbour,

As President of The Royal Sydney Golf Club, I am writing to inform you that the Club has recently lodged an amended Development Application with Woollahra Council for the renovation and landscape rehabilitation of its championship golf course.

This milestone follows extensive discussions with Council staff members, feedback from the community and some unforeseen delays in the process caused by COVID-19. The Club has now responded to all the issues raised and to extensive requests for further information. The application now arguably represents the most detailed by any Australian golf club for a course redevelopment and we thank you for your input into this process.

The feedback received from Council and the community has been very helpful and caused the Club to undertake considerable introspection – the outcomes from which have resulted in a number of positive enhancements to the initial proposal, principally with respect to the landscape rehabilitation and tree retention aspects.

Those key enhancements include:

- a revised landscaping design that involves, by comparison with the original DA, **188 additional trees being retained and 1,888 native trees being planted.**
This will result in a net increase of 1,293 trees on site, as well as the planting of around 500,000 native plants and shrubs. Many of the trees, plants and shrubs are currently being grown in nurseries around Sydney. No trees will be removed from the perimeter of the golf course.
- a *Biodiversity Development Assessment Report* (completed by Cumberland Ecology) which confirms that the proposal will:
 - result in greater habitat, with improved structural variability providing more diverse habitats for native fauna;
 - have minimal impact on biodiversity during the construction phase through a variety of mitigation measures;
 - provide a new habitat for the re-introduction of several threatened species - also confirming that there are no existing threatened ecological communities nor threatened fauna species on the site;
 - enhance and improve the habitat diversity across the site in the long term; and
 - comply with Woollahra Council's *Biodiversity Conservation Strategy* 'to increase the extent, diversity and resilience of natural flora species and vegetation communities'.
- a *Canopy Changes Report* (completed by EcoGeo Spatial) that has confirmed that, while under the revised design there will be an initial loss of tree canopy, this will be recovered within approximately 10 years and then further improved in the years thereafter.

The application is expected to be determined by the independent Woollahra Local Planning Panel later this year, with works scheduled to commence in April 2022.

In the meantime, I encourage you read the attached fact sheet and to visit our project website which can be accessed via this link: championshipcourse.rsgc.com.au

Chris Chapman
President
7th April 2021