

2 April 2012

Ms Vanessa Chan  
General Manager  
Ashfield Council  
260 Liverpool Road  
ASHFIELD NSW 2123

Dear Ms Chan,

## DA 10.2011.255.1 - Dobroyd Parade, Haberfield

This letter has been prepared on behalf of the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS), following the Council meeting held Tuesday 27 March 2012.

### 1 INTRODUCTION

UTS have sought to work collaboratively with Council throughout the preparation and assessment of the refurbishment. An initial meeting was held with staff to discuss the proposal in August 2009; UTS have subsequently met Council staff on-site twice and have presented the scheme at a full Council meeting. Throughout the assessment process, UTS have been compliant with Council's requests and have provided a high level of documentation to assist with Council's assessment.

UTS appreciate Council's support for the proposal and the Council officer's recommendation for approval by the Joint Regional Planning Panel.

At the Council meeting, it was resolved:

*That Council write to UTS requesting they investigate how the clubs rowing facilities could be used by people with a disability.*

UTS Rowing head coach - Steve Luker, has advised that UTS Rowing have been able to accommodate adaptive rowers in the past, and the refurbishment would not prevent the use of the facilities by people with a disability in the future.

### 2 UTS SUPPORT FOR ADAPTIVE ROWERS

#### 2.1 THE PURPOSE OF THE UTS HABERFIELD ROWING CLUB

Membership of the UTS Haberfield Rowing Club is open to the community; however, at present the Club does not run 'learn-to-row' programmes. It should be noted that purpose built facilities to meet the requirements of high performance 'adaptive rowers' (i.e. disabled) are located in Penrith.

#### 2.2 THE PROPOSAL COMPLIES WITH ALL RELEVANT ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS

Key drivers for the refurbishment are to meet current fire and access building standards, and compliance with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act. Council's assessment

determined that the proposal meets all relevant accessibility requirements. The ground floor rowing facility includes:

- A continuous path of travel from the car park to the water's edge; and
- Accessible WC and shower.

During the preparation of the development application, UTS engaged Arina Consulting to provide advice ensuring the rowing facilities meet the relevant accessibility requirements.

## 2.3 EXISTING MEASURES TO SUPPORT ADAPTIVE ROWERS

Whilst the Club's main purpose is to develop high performance able bodied rowers, it can accommodate the requirements of adaptive rowers in the following manner:

### Vision impaired athletes

A personal guide is appointed to assist athletes negotiate the boat racks and equipment within the boatshed and accompanies them out on the water. They generally row in a two-man scull – which is stored in the boatshed.

### Wheelchair athletes

Club members assist wheelchair athletes to load and manoeuvre their modified craft, and also provide assistance within the boatshed and on the water if required.

### Mentally impaired athletes

A personal guide is appointed to assist athletes within the boatshed and accompany them on the water.

The Club has advised that the proposal's provision of accessible showers and change facilities improves its capacity to accommodate adaptive rowers.

UTS are pleased to be able to provide Council with further information demonstrating their approach to providing access for adaptive rowers at the UTS Haberfield Club. Please feel free to contact me (8233 9900) if you wish to discuss any of the above

Kind regards,



Tom Goode  
Associate Director

CC Ashfield Councillors  
Philip North / Philip Sarin – Ashfield Council  
Peter Lewis - University of Technology, Sydney - Facilities Management Unit