

**ISSUE:**

Submission regarding Development Application No. DA21/1251 by Senior Constable Katherine Dodd.

BACKGROUND:

See attached file.

COMMENT:

Development Application No.: DA21/1251

Proposal: Demolition of existing structures and construction of a mixed-use development (health service facility and residential units) with Torrens title and stratum subdivision

Property: 319 Taren Point Road, Caringbah, 12 Hinkler Avenue, Caringbah, 329 Taren Point Road, Caringbah, 20 Hinkler Avenue, Caringbah, 321 Taren Point Road, Caringbah, 10 Hinkler Avenue, Caringbah, 18 Hinkler Avenue, Caringbah, 8 Hinkler Avenue, Caringbah, 333 Taren Point Road, Caringbah, 323 Taren Point Road, Caringbah, 16 Hinkler Avenue, Caringbah, 6 Hinkler Avenue, Caringbah, 325 Taren Point Road, Caringbah, 14 Hinkler Avenue, Caringbah, 327 Taren Point Road, Caringbah, 331 Taren Point Road, Caringbah

Police Ref: D/2022/108661

We refer to your development application which proposes the demolition of existing structures and construction of a mixed-use development comprising of medical office and health service facilities and stratum subdivision at 6-20 Hinkler Avenue and 319-333 Taren Point Rd, Caringbah.

The proposed development will result in a significant increase in activity, both in and around the location. Such activity will subsequently increase the potential risk of crime.

Of particular concern will be the increase in vehicular and pedestrian traffic in and around the development. There is limited on street parking at the location due to being in the vicinity of Sutherland Hospital.

Sutherland Shire Police Area Command

Sutherland Police Station

109 Flora St, Sutherland

Telephone 02 9542 0899 Facsimile 02 9542 0708 F/Net 58899 F/Fax 58708 TTY 9211 3776 (Hearing/Speech impaired)

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After perusing the paperwork, the following suggested treatment options are submitted for consideration including a number of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) factors that should be considered in this development.

Surveillance

The attractiveness of crime targets can be reduced by providing opportunities for effective surveillance, both natural and technical. Good surveillance means that people can see what others are doing. People feel safe in public areas when they can easily see and interact with others. Would-be offenders are often deterred from committing crime in areas with high levels of surveillance.

- **Lighting and Technical Supervision**

Lighting should meet minimum Australian standards. Effective lighting contributes to safety by improving visibility, increasing the chance that offenders can be detected and decreasing fear. Special attention should be made to lighting the entry and exit points from the buildings, pathways throughout the site, car park and access/exit driveways.

The access/exit driveways need to be adequately lit to improve visibility and increase the likelihood that offenders will be detected and apprehended. At the same time throughout the site transition lighting is needed to reduce vision impairment, i.e. reducing a person walking from dark to light places.

Security lighting should not illuminate observers or vantage points. Within the residential complex, observers are likely to be “inside” dwellings. Light should be projected away from buildings towards pathways and gates – not towards windows and doors. Additionally, the central pathway through the complex should provide adequate lighting for pedestrian safety. The attached development application does not specify such lighting considerations.

- **Landscaping**

The safety objective of “to see and be seen” is important in landscaped areas. Research and strong anecdotal evidence suggest that vegetation is commonly used by criminals to aid concealment through the provision of entrapment pockets. Dense vegetation can provide concealment and entrapment opportunities.

Species can be selected for different locations based on their heights, bulk and shape. A safety convention for vegetation is: lower tree limbs should be above average head height, and shrubs should not provide easy concealment. It is recommended that 3-

5m of cleared space be located either side of residential pathways. Thereafter, vegetation can be stepped back in height to maximise sightlines.

Given the inclusion of shrubs and trees throughout the site within the proposed development, it must always be emphasised that the vegetation be kept trimmed and maintained.

Access Control

Physical and symbolic barriers can be used to attract, channel or restrict the movement of people. They minimise opportunities for crime and increase the effort required to commit crime. By making it clear where people are permitted to go or not go, it becomes difficult for potential offenders to reach and victimise people and their property.

Illegible boundary markers and confusing spatial definition make it easy for criminals to make excuses for being in restricted areas. The proposed development application does not specify access control measures throughout the development. It is, however, crucial that these access control measures be considered.

Consideration should be given to installing security shutters at the entry to the underground car park area. It is noted that the following 'can be conditioned' - "*where security measures to car parks are provided an intercom system shall be installed for visitors to gain entry. This system shall incorporate a CCTV system to ensure that the visitor space availability can be determined*" (Annexure B, SSDCP 2006 Compliance Table, p.15). This security control measure should strongly be considered prior to approval of this development application.

Police would recommend that all residents are allocated access cards to provide temporary activation of security shutters to the basement area. This security access control measure could also be used to gain access into the pool area – access/safety control measures are not specified within the development application.

The proposal does not specify the type of locks to be fitted to roller doors within the basement car park area. Police would recommend that garage doors are designed and installed to the Australian Standards, fitted with quality locks. Within the local area, a common modus operandi of break and enter offenders whilst targeting premises of similar nature, is to access the residential premise via the garage area. Hence, quality deadlock sets should be fitted to internal doors leading from the garage area into individual townhouses. Storage doors within the garage area should also be fitted with quality deadlocks.

Police recommend that the underground car parking areas be painted white to greatly help to reflect light. Painted facilities not only look larger and more spacious than unpainted car parks, but can greatly reduce the number of lights required to illuminate the car park and on-going energy costs.

Police would suggest the use of CCTV to monitor the common areas, access/exit driveways and underground car parks to ensure resident safety and security.

Internal residential entrance doors and frames should be of solid construction. These doors should be fitted with quality deadlock sets, which comply with the Australian/New Zealand standards and Fire Regulations (Australian Building Code) to enable occupants to escape in emergency situations such as a fire. Consideration should be given to installing key operated locks to windows. In addition to this, consideration should be given to installing locks that allow for windows and doors in a partially open position.

Territorial Reinforcement

With few exceptions, criminals do not want to be detected, challenged or apprehended. For offenders, the capability of guardianship (to detect, challenge or apprehend) is an important consideration. It is argued that residents are more effective as guardians (crime deterrents) than passing members of the community.

Territorial reinforcement can be achieved through:

- ✓ Design that encourages people to gather in public space and to feel some responsibility for its use and condition
- ✓ Design with clear transitions and boundaries between public and private space
- ✓ Clear design cues on who is to use the space and what it is to be used for. Care is needed to ensure that territorial reinforcement is not achieved by making public spaces private spaces, through gates and enclosures.

- **Environmental Maintenance**

Clean, well-maintained areas often exhibit strong territorial cues. Rundown areas negatively impact upon perceptions of fear and may affect community confidence to use public space and ultimately, it may affect crime opportunity. Vandalism can induce fear and avoidance behaviour in a public space, therefore the rapid repair of vandalism and graffiti, the replacement of car park lighting and general site cleanliness is important to create a feeling of ownership. Ownership increases the likelihood that people will report or attempt to prevent crime.

Many graffiti vandals favour porous building surfaces, as 'tags' are difficult to remove. Often a ghost image will remain even after cleaning. Easily damaged building materials may be less expensive to purchase initially, but their susceptibility to vandalism can make them a costly proposition in the long term, particularly in at-risk areas. This should be considered when selecting materials for construction.

The overall design of the outdoor "common areas" should include low barrier vegetation, bright/even lighting, wide/even paving, effective guardianship and an absence of entrapment opportunities. In addition to visible street numbering at the entrance to the complex, and throughout, this development should contain clearly

signposted directional signage to assist both visitors and emergency services personnel.

Other Matters

Lighting

Offenders within the area target this type of development, both in its construction phase and when the units are occupied. Police would recommend the use of security sensor lights and a security company to monitor the site while construction is in progress.

Car Park Security

One of the major issues that have been brought to Police attention in this Local Government Area is the prevalence of offenders breaching the security access to the car park areas and breaking into the vehicles. Due to the isolation of the garages, these offences are not usually noticed by the owners until much later. It is suggested that this area be monitored by CCTV and appropriately sign-posted to deter potential offenders.

Way-finding

Wayfinding in large environments such as this proposed development site can be confusing. Design and definitional legibility is an important safety issue at these locations. Knowing how and where to enter and exit, and find assistance within the development, can impact perceptions of safety, victim vulnerability and crime opportunity. Signage should *reinforce*, but not be an alternative to legible design.

Letter boxes

Mail/identity theft costs the community millions of dollars annually. And thieves thrive off residents leaving their letter boxes unlocked. It is **highly recommended** the letter boxes are constructed of quality material and be fitted with quality and robust locks. Letter boxes that are positioned on the outside of the complex are easily accessible by offenders using master keys and residents leaving letter boxes unlocked. The use of a parcel lockbox should also be considered.

The NSW Police Force (NSWPF) has a vital interest in ensuring the safety of members of the community and their property. By using recommendations contained in this evaluation any person who does so acknowledges that:

- It is not possible to make areas evaluated by the NSWPF absolutely safe for the community and their property*
- Recommendations are based upon information provided to, and observations made by the NSWPF at the time the evaluation was made*
- The evaluation is a confidential document and is for use by the Council or the organisation referred to on page one*
- The contents of this evaluation are not to be copied or circulated otherwise than for the purpose of the Council or the organisation referred to on page one.*

- *The NSWPF hopes that by using recommendations contained within this document, criminal activity will be reduced and the safety of members of the community and their property will be increased. However, it does not guarantee that the area evaluated will be free from criminal activity if its recommendations are followed.*

RECOMMENDATION:

There are no objections to this proposal however it is recommended the above Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) should be considered in this development.



Katherine Dodd
Senior Constable
Crime Prevention Officer
Sutherland Shire Police Area Command
1st March 2022
Ph: 9542 0899

1) Sergeant Millington, Crime Co Ordinator – Sutherland Shire PAC

For information of Sutherland Shire Council.



R. Millington
Sergeant
3 March 2022

2) General Manager, Sutherland Shire Council



31 January 2022

Sutherland Shire Police Area Command
Locked Bag 5102
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

Dear Sir/Madam

Development Application No. DA21/1251

Proposal: Demolition of existing structures and construction of a mixed-use development (health service facility and residential units) with Torrens title and stratum subdivision

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This letter is to advise that Council has received the above development application.

The application was received by Council on 13 December 2021 and will be on public exhibition from 28 January to 18 February 2022. It is being referred to NSW Police Service for a Crime Risk Assessment in accordance with the protocol established between Council and NSW Police. A copy of the application form and internal floor plans are attached. Other supporting plans and information can be accessed from Council's website at www.sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au, go to Track / Development Applications.

The application seeks to construct a large mixed-use development, comprising the remainder of the residential block in Hinkler Avenue and Taren Point Road. It contains a large health service facility and upper level residential apartments.

Your comments are requested in relation to Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) and 'Safer by Design' aspects of the proposal in addition to any general local policing issues which may be relevant in considering the application.

In making any recommendations to Council, NSW Police should be aware that Council can only request changes to a proposal or impose conditions which are *directly* related to the current proposal. For example, Council cannot use an application for additions to an existing hotel as an opportunity to retrospectively reduce approved hours of operation.

In your response please clearly indicate whether NSW Police supports the proposal or has an objection to it being approved. If supporting the proposal, please specify any modifications or conditions of consent that you consider appropriate. In accordance with the enclosed protocol, if no response is received within 21 days, Council will assume NSW Police do not have any objections to the proposal.

If you need further information or wish to meet with Council staff to discuss the proposal please contact Amanda Treharne on 9710 0462 or email atrehane@ssc.nsw.gov.au and quote the application number in the subject.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Treharne', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Amanda Treharne