

Fairlight Precinct Community Forum
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Executive Director
National Competition Council

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**Re Draft Recommendation
Application for Declaration by Services Sydney**

Dear Sir

Our Precinct** meeting of Monday 13 September discussed Services Sydney's proposals, your recent report and draft recommendations. By a vote of 13-0, it endorsed the following resolution and authorised this letter.

"Precinct applauds the clear & well written NCC report. It questions only the proposed declaration period of 15 years. Even without access to financial information, it seems clear to us that a project, especially of this magnitude with perhaps most of a decade needed to complete the infrastructure, needs a much longer period of certainty to recover costs.

Sydney Water's Waterplan21 and other documents make it very clear that its usage of major ocean outfalls (and its \$7 billion investment in them) is intended to last well beyond the next 15 years and that its main sewer lines – to which Services Sydney would connect – are likely to be robust for 50+ years. Our Precinct representative on the North Head STP committee confirms that Sydney Water have no significant plans for de-voluming the outfall even on the distant horizon despite pressure from all peak environment groups to do so.

While there are chances of some breakthrough in technology or changing laws, these seem remote. Even a domestic mortgage is typically funded over 30 or more years. We urge you to re-consider the 15 year declaration period and recommend something much closer to Services Sydney's requested 50 years.

Precinct supports the submission previously made by Manly Council in support of the declaration(s). While NCC is necessarily concerned primarily with economic and competition issues, the Services Sydney proposals also offer potentially enormous environmental gains – reducing sewage outfalls at North Head (about 50 tons of solids pumped out a day), Bondi & Malabar and creating an alternative water supply for environmental flows in rivers, irrigation and other uses."

Yours faithfully



Warwick McKenzie
Chair, Fairlight Precinct Community Forum**

** The Manly, NSW, LGA is split into twelve Precinct Community Forums – each month, residents (and business owners and workers) meet to discuss matters of community concern.