



Newport Residents Association Inc.

PO Box 1180

Newport Beach NSW 2106

President - Gavin Butler (gebutler@aapt.net.au) 0409 395 102

Hon. Secretary - (wendydunnet@gmail.com) 0418 161 074

Hon. Treasurer - Kyle Hill 0412 221 962

www.newport.org.au

23rd July 2016

The Chief Executive Officer
'Merivale'
Level 2, 320-330 George St
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir,

We firstly wish to congratulate you as the owners of 'The Newport' on the magnificent upgrade to this hotel so far and how it has added to the great amenity of the Newport village. We wish, however, to draw your attention to some community concerns about the wood fire pollution emitted by the two pizza ovens and four open fire pits operated at 'The Newport' hotel.

It was revealed, at a recent general meeting of the Newport Residents Association that, there are times when the westerly winter winds direct considerable volumes of visible smoke over local residences and the kindergarten in Queens Parade West. The wood smoke has been witnessed even up to the grounds of our primary school and after school care centre.

During discussions on this matter, members were reminded of the dangers of inhaling wood fire pollution – of the visible smoke, that stings eyes, engenders headaches and makes one cough and of the more dangerous invisible component that contains microfine particles (PM2.5s) mixed with carcinogens and toxic gases - the wood fire odour, that is absorbed directly into the blood stream via the lung alveoli. It seems that there is compelling evidence (confirmed by the WHO) that the PM2.5 fraction is especially harmful to very young children, potentially compromising their future respiratory and cardiovascular health and brain development. Further, we are told that this fraction can precipitate acute attacks in those children living with asthma (11.8%; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. 2009).

In the interests of the health of our community and especially of our very young 'Newporters' we respectfully request that you take action to mitigate, or ideally eliminate, the sources of wood fire pollution emanating from 'The Newport'.

We understand that the renovations to the hotel, including the installation of wood fired pizza ovens, were approved by Pittwater Council. We also understand that any pollution assessment of the pizza ovens, by Council, will be based on the archaic provisions of the NSW POEO Act 1997 – these take no account of the toxic PM2.5s, relying solely on the presence of visible plumes of smoke. But this does not change the fact those pizza ovens and open fire pits are significantly

polluting our air shed, 24/7, and, of course, putting some of your customers and staff at risk. We are less certain about how the four open fire pits were approved as Pittwater is a "No Open Burn Area". (NSW Pollution Legislation).

While we appreciate the commercial considerations that may have prompted the hotel to incorporate wood burners into the new design, we suggest that the outstanding facility you have created would succeed without their presence and in fact would likely attract more older groups who, like the very young, are reported to be sensitive to wood fire pollution.

Thank you for your attention to this important community health issue.

Yours sincerely,

Gavin Butler
President

Cc The Manager
'The Newport' Hotel,
Kalinya St.
Newport NSW 2106



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