



MORTDALE RSL

Mortdale RSL Club Development Update – Misinformation from Certain Members of Local Community

Mortdale RSL Community Club President Geoff Denyer states ‘ The Club has never canvassed the idea of a 15-storey building as has been quoted by some misinformed parties. Clearly this would be unacceptable to the local community, including our own members’



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The Editor,
St. George and Sutherland Shire Leader.

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors of Mortdale RSL Community Club Ltd. We are concerned that certain members of the local community have been using the good name of the Club in the local community to advance their political agendas in the upcoming Georges River Council elections. It further disappoints us that a respectable local publisher like the Leader would run a heavily politicised feature article which appears to target our Club without seeking both sides of the story. Therefore, we would like to make the following points clear to our members and the local Mortdale community:

- The Club has suffered heavily from COVID and compliance with other legislative changes that have occurred over the past 10-15 years. Nevertheless, we continue to focus on our role in the community by providing a meeting venue for multiple community groups including Rotary, Lions, Probus, CWA and local schools
- The Club actively supports the wider aims of the Returned and Services League of Australia. Anyone doubting this should acquaint themselves with our hosting of the ANZAC Dawn Service earlier this year. Even with COVID restrictions, there was over one thousand in attendance including a majority of people under the age of 35, many of which were school children
- The Club has a strong relationship with its parent Sub-Branch and any suggestion that the Club would become “RSL Pty. Ltd.” is both repugnant to all associated with our Club for over a century and illegal under the Registered Clubs Act. Put simply, the members are our shareholders, and all Directors serve in a voluntary capacity without any remuneration
- The Club premises are dated and beyond economic repair in certain areas, requiring the construction of a replacement building which is also beyond the current financial resources of the Club
- The Board decided several years ago that reliance on gaming (Poker Machines) is not a sustainable or socially responsible business model
- The new Club premises would be part of a larger development as is common across the wider Sydney area
- The Club has never canvassed the idea of a 15-storey building as has been quoted by some misinformed parties. Clearly this would be unacceptable to the local community, including our own members
- The Club has consistently worked with Council officers towards a mutually acceptable solution and continues to do so. The implication the Mortdale Master Plan was influenced by the RSL is akin to suggesting that both Council officers and the Club engaged in corrupt conduct and is clearly defamatory to both parties
- The Club reserves the right to institute legal proceedings should defamatory material continue to be published in both mainstream and/or social media

Now that the Mortdale Master Plan has been released for exhibition, we look forward to working with the plan to gain a financially viable outcome for our members. It is important for all to understand that, if the Club is forced to close, the land will almost certainly be sold off to a private developer with no benefit to the local community.

Regards,

Geoff Denyer,

President,

Mortdale RSL Community Club.