

Avalon Preservation Trust

incorporated as

Avalon Preservation Association



Ms Helen Lever
A/CEO
Northern Beaches Council
Via email

Attention: Charles Sawley, Snr Asset Planning Officer

3 August 2018

Dear Ms Lever,

Demolition of two pedestrian bridges in Avalon

Avalon Preservation Association is the community organisation representing the almost 4,000 residents of Avalon. We have several hundred active members and supporters.

Enclosures and signs appeared suddenly with no warning or consultation a few days ago around two well-used Avalon facilities – pedestrian bridges on the east of the northern carpark adjacent to the Barefoot Boulevard shopping centre, and north of the skate park and near Council’s trial unleashed dog park, at the traffic lights at Central & Barrenjoey Roads.

Both of these pedestrian bridges allow pedestrians to cross the Careel Creek Canal safely, and are regularly used by Avalon residents and visitors. In particular, the latter bridge is used every school day by many students to access Barrenjoey High School. It is also used by anyone wishing to walk through the Yellow Brick Road to Avalon North and the northern end of Avalon Beach .

When we contacted Council we were informed that both bridges are undergoing safety inspections, but the sign at the former (at Barefoot Boulevard) reads in part “... and is scheduled for demolition”. Nothing about replacement. Your call centre operator explained that there were currently no plans to replace this bridge and that replacement of the other bridge depended on investigations, set to last at least one month.

The Avalon Preservation Association holds the strong view that both these pedestrian bridges have, over many years, performed a useful community function providing safe access and active travel options in Avalon. I’m sure you will understand that Avalon residents do not regard demolition of valuable current assets without suitable replacement as progress in any form. It is also contrary to Council’s *Move Northern Beaches* initiative and to what we were assured would occur following compulsory council amalgamations, a process the majority of citizens in this area opposed. Perhaps we begin to see some of the reasons for that opposition.

The Association requests in the strongest possible terms that if Council intends to demolish these community resources, that it also provide suitable replacements. We look forward to a positive response at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

Marita Macrae
Vice President