

# *Camden Residents' Action Group*

*Incorporated*  
*Camden – Still a Country Town*

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Local Planning Panel 15 December 2022

Re: DA 2021/1875/1

45 Oxley St Camden

*Erection of new storage shed and front entry awning with corporate signage*

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Panel.

December is a month characterised in Camden by at least two things: the proliferation of Xmas Trees and associated decorations on the one hand; and a bundle of often contentious DAs requiring submissions from the community and in this case, of addresses to Planning Panel hearings at the same time. Suspicious minds may see this pattern not a coincidence so much as a strategy.

To allay such concerns, I would suggest that matters such as these have a final date of 30 November, allowing communities to occupy themselves with celebratory and family matters rather than contested issues. After all, DA exhibitions and public panels such as this are created to allow space for different views to be aired. It becomes something of a contradiction to add extra burdens at a time when communities are already stretched. I have spoken to Council about this and there seems no reason for matters to lie fallow for many months and then suddenly require address.

It is noted that the design for 45 Oxley Street now shows an endeavour to respond positively to criticisms of their earlier Application by reducing the size of the signage, but it is still intrusive, and I am not sure what advantage there is by loudly proclaiming the service. Time was when Dentists, like Doctors, quietly announced their practice clearly but modestly – one thinks of the discrete brass plaque. It is unlikely that shoppers, keen to finish their shopping at Woolworths, will spontaneously opt in for a quick clean or filling. In fact, too much concentration on matters Dental can be quite unsettling.

The other matter of concern is the colour: a rather dull, flat grey. This is currently very fashionable, and in some areas would indicate how up-to-date and fashionable the premises are. But not here.

Heritage colours<sup>1</sup> in Camden's HCA must reflect and enhance its history and be in keeping with a town based around sandstone and brick. Lighter and warmer earthy colours with accents picked out in tones of red Oxide and Brunswick green are very traditional. The Panel could suggest something more in keeping with the surrounds to allow this building to settle in more agreeably with its surrounds.

Thank you

365 words

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.bcrpainting.com.au/bcrpainterblogs/2017/8/11/a-look-at-heritage-exterior-colours-in-all-their-glory>  
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Exterior-Paint-Colours.pdf>