

1 May 2018

16 Iyar 5778

Joint Statement from Kehillat Kadimah Limited & Mikvah Aziza Limited

In its mission of moving our community forward together, one of Kehillat Kadimah's critical workstreams has been to ensure that the mikvah facilities at 666 Old South Head Road (**Mikvah**) resumes operations, thereby enabling people to fulfil the associated mitzvot of family purity and kashrut within an Orthodox framework.

The Mikvah's establishment and construction were undertaken by South Head & District Synagogue (In Liquidation), and it operated under the sole supervision of Rabbi Milecki.

In the interests of finding an optimal way that the Mikvah could reopen and operate for the benefit of the wider Sydney community, the Board of Kehillat Kadimah decided to work with Mikvah Aziza Limited. This is an independent, not-for-profit entity established with the objective of managing the operation of the Mikvah, and has supporters from shules across Sydney reflecting the shared common interest in having this communal facility in operation. It is planned that Mikvah Aziza will operate the Mikvah under a sub-license arrangement. Mikvah Aziza draws on the operational expertise of Rivka Ray, supported by the governance and leadership of fellow Directors Judy Kaye and Bev Michaelis. Mikvah Aziza will complement Sydney Mikvah's Glenayr Avenue facility and together collectively work on strengthening our families and community by enhancing observance of Taharat HaMishpacha.

Mikvah Aziza and Kehillat Kadimah are united in their desire that the Mikvah operates at a halachic standard that satisfies the broadest number of Sydney's Orthodox community for the benefit and enjoyment of the maximum number of possible mikvah users and supporters. To achieve this Rabbi Niasoff has been in extensive consultation with the Sydney Beth Din and several mikvaot experts around the world so that this Mikvah operates at "best practice" standards consistent with other mikvaot in Sydney and around the world. Kehillat Kadimah supports Mikvah Aziza's desire to only open once it has received sign off from a Beth Din.

Accordingly certain repairs are necessary, and in turn each have a range of possible solutions to investigate to ensure both halachic acceptance and suitability to the physical building. This has not been a straight forward process and unfortunately has taken much longer than initially anticipated.

Having invested substantial time and energy of investigations over recent months, it is now expected there will be faster progress during the month of May, with an update on the timing to reopen the Mikvah thereafter. One major factor (and one which is beyond anyone's control) will be the timing and amount of rainfall necessary to fill the Mikvah's reservoirs for operations to recommence.

We all look forward to reopening Mikvah Aziza as soon as possible.