

Gabriel Virgona
28 Hawthorne Parade
Haberfield NSW 2045
T. 0404 840 133

1 SEP 2017

21 August 2017

Tyson Ek-Moller
Executive Planner

Northern Beaches Council
Civic Centre
725 Pittwater Road
Dee Why NSW 2099

And via email: pittwater@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

Dear Tyson,

I recently heard that the rainforest block adjacent to number 60 Hillside Road was under consideration for development.

Having been a part of the Hillside Road community for nearly 20 years with my wife's family living at number 60 Hillside Road, I find it incredibly disappointing that the council would consider ruining what is **one of the last pockets of littoral rainforest areas in the Northern Beaches.**

As Supervisor to the Ungulates and Elephants team at Taronga Zoo, and previously the Supervisor of Australian Birds and Mammals, I feel strongly about how our community engages in and appreciates our wildlife and can assure you that there are numerous species in that particular area that would be significantly affected by any development.

Over recent years, including during 2017, I have encountered various species of Australian animals in that area, including:

- **Noisy Pittas – of which there are only a couple of pockets in Sydney where these are found.**
- Dollar Birds

- Powerful Owls
- Bandicoots – I have noticed that the recent developments of other blocks in the area has affected the numbers of this species.
- Ring tail and brush tail possums
- Microbats
- Golden Crowned Snakes
- Native species of tree frogs – which I have noticed have been affected by recent rains that wash down the hill bringing excess clay and concrete from developments further up the hill.
- Eastern Whip Birds

I urge the council to consider the immediate and terrible effect that any development in the area would have on these animals. They play an important role in not only our ecosystem and climate of the area but as a community we have a duty to protect them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'G. Virgona', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Gabriel Virgona