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28/11/2024

MRS Anne Lanyon
21 The Avenue ST
Newport NSW 2106

RE: DA2024/1409 - 122 Crescent Road NEWPORT NSW 2106

As a resident of The Avenue, I only found out about this application today, the closing day for submissions. This application affects all the residents of The Avenue as it affects the end of our street. The Public Land at the end of The Avenue must be kept in public hands. Access to the water at the end of The Avenue must be kept in the interests of the whole community not blocked off for private use only. The significant trees and the foreshore ecosystems must not be impacted by private boat moorings and the proposed sea wall. Please see below a copy of a letter sent to the NB Council 22-2-2-24. You will find that there were many other such letters sent to NB Council early in the year. The local community is strongly against the privatisation of the end of our street. Yet the residents of The Avenue have not been consulted about this application. "There has always, theoretically, been public access to the foreshore at the southwestern end of The Avenue. However, it has been largely discouraged on health and safety grounds, since the Marina has been operating heavy and dangerous machinery in the precinct. This has not been conducive to residents having access.

The rezoning of the site, which the Council has already approved, changes everything.

There is public access to Pittwater for the whole width of The Avenue and its Road Reserve area. A substantial footprint! We have used the quiet street. I am the co-ordinator of the Annual The Avenue Christmas Get-Together which has been going for over 20 years. During COVID especially, that end of the street was the place where we could safely have this community gathering.

At present the public area below the road is a weed-infested slope with only a very rough track down to the water.

The Council, therefore, has a unique opportunity to transform this area by providing steps down to the water, and together with some landscaping, to possibly establish a place to store recreational marine items such as paddle boards and kayaks. It is certainly feasible to create a valuable public amenity, whilst providing native vegetation and a nurturing wildlife habitat. Such an amenity would be a real win for the whole Community!

HOWEVER, there is a real danger that this will not happen due to a bureaucratic black hole.

The Pittwater foreshore comes under the jurisdiction of the Crown Lands Department. The Developer of the Sirsi site has already been in discussion with Crown Lands about establishing private jetties, which would potentially extinguish public access. These new jetties could be sold in conjunction with the new residential lots.

The prospect of losing public access and the possibility of turning the area into an improved public amenity is too great to ignore - for current residents and future generations. Once the public access is gone, it is too late.

I therefore urge you to ensure that the public access to the foreshore at the end of The Avenue is retained and the Northern Beaches Council help improve this public amenity. With the support of local residents, this would be a great community project."