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30/10/2024

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Balgowlah Heights NSW 2093
[REDACTED]

RE: DA2024/1216 - Gourlay Avenue BALGOWLAH NSW 2093

The proposal made by Davis Marina to create a cafe and allow yachts up to 15M in size is a flagrant disregard to the natural surroundings, people living in the area and tourists who come to our beautiful suburb to walk through our fantastic bushland. Our waters are home to delicate flora and fauna that we as residents have a duty to protect. Allowing large yachts in this small area simply does not make sense. With these types of water vessels comes crews and passengers that the parking area of Gourlay Avenue and surrounding streets does not have capacity to hold. Large yachts have large fuel tanks, if an incident occurs with these yachts there is a risk hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of damage, and unspeakable damage to our waterways. The only way for a firetruck or motor SES unit to access this area is down a winding tight road used by tradies for the houses along the beach front, pedestrians, council workers, Davis Marina access and access to the other small boat club. This is severely hindered by this proposal, as there will be a massive increase in foot traffic and parked vehicles. A cafe is a nonsensical thing to build when there are simply no facilities to allow this to happen. There are no disabled parking areas, one small outdated toilet, a one lane road that simply could not keep up with delivery people on top of the aforementioned foot and motor traffic to the area. There are more than enough cafes on the Spit to Manly thoroughfare, there is only one North Harbour. This is an environment that is already at breaking point, and we as residents have a responsibility to minimise our impact. The waste disposal facilities are not designed to accommodate to dog walkers and regular pedestrians as is. Having a cafe before the entrance of a national park is completely pointless as there will be without a doubt in the increase of littering. We have rock wallabies, bilbies, lizards, snakes and birds that simply cannot survive the selfishness of people who will not respect our natural environment. To think that people know better than to litter in 2024 would be an incredibly naive viewpoint, easily disproven by members of the planning committee taking a walk along our bush track and coastline. My personal view of the proposed development is a cash grab with no thought to how much we stand to lose if it goes ahead. Getting an iced coffee slightly before 40 Beans cafe is absolutely not worth the trade off of built up traffic, losing our precious water birds, wallabies, possums, bilbies, blue tongue lizards, snakes, turtles and fish. I sincerely hope that the council looks past the revenue that a venue like this would bring in to instead prioritise our delicate environment that is considered home to so many people, animals and plants.