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To: DA Submission Mailbox
Subject: Online Submission

14/11/2024

MR B Jones
37 / 37 - 37 New St W ST
Balgowlah Heights NSW 2093

RE: DA2024/1216 - Gourlay Avenue BALGOWLAH NSW 2093

Opposition to Marina Renovation Proposal in Secluded Bay

To Whom It May Concern,

As a long time resident of the street adjacent to the proposed works, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed renovation of the marina in our cherished secluded bay, which includes the addition of a new bar serving alcohol. This bay is not only a haven for families seeking peace and quiet but also a region of significant ecological value. The following points outline the major concerns regarding this development:

High Ecological Value

The bay is home to a diverse array of marine megafauna including giant rays, nautilus, and large cuttlefish. These species contribute to the biodiversity and ecological balance of the area. Additionally, the foreshore is inhabited by native species such as the echidna, which depend on the pristine environment for survival. The proposed development threatens these delicate ecosystems.

Impact on Families and Children

This bay is a sanctuary for many young children and families who enjoy its serene and sober environment. The introduction of a bar serving alcohol would disrupt the tranquility and compromise the family-friendly atmosphere that so many residents and visitors cherish. The increase in noise and potential for disruptive behavior is not conducive to the current peaceful setting.

Acoustic Impact

There has been no acoustic report provided to assess the impact of the noise generated by superyachts, café operations, and the general increase in human activity. Sound travels exceptionally well over water, and the constant hum of engines and loud conversations will undoubtedly disturb the natural silence of the bay. This is particularly concerning for the wildlife and the residents who value the quietude.

Visual Impact and Loss of Views

The visual intrusion caused by large superyachts docking in the bay cannot be understated. These vessels will obstruct the natural beauty and panoramic views that the bay currently offers. The scenic vistas enjoyed by locals and tourists alike will be marred by the presence of oversized boats, altering the character of the bay irreversibly.

Swing Mooring Removals

The proposal includes the removal of swing moorings, which will significantly impact local mooring availability. North Harbour already has the highest demand for moorings in NSW, and reducing the number of available spots will exacerbate the issue, leading to inconvenience and dissatisfaction among local boat owners.

Environmental Impact

The development poses several environmental risks, including damage to seagrass beds, which are crucial for the health of the marine ecosystem. Without a pump-out facility, there is a heightened risk of pollution from waste discharged by boats, which would further harm water quality. Additionally, excessive wash from increased boat traffic will cause erosion along the foreshore and violent movement for all craft in the bay, endangering both property and wildlife.

In conclusion, the proposed marina renovation and the introduction of a bar serving alcohol are incompatible with the secluded bay's ecological and social fabric. The project threatens the delicate balance of marine and terrestrial ecosystems, disrupts the peace and quiet cherished by families, and poses significant environmental and visual impacts. We urge decision-makers to reconsider this proposal in light of the substantial negative consequences outlined above.

Respectfully,

Mr B Jones