

**Livia Kekwick**

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**From:**

**To:** Planning Panels - Northern Beaches  
**Cc:** pittwater@parliament.nsw.gov.au  
**Subject:** APPLICATION DA2020/1756 - Objection

**Categories:** NBLPP

Dear Minister Stokes

I and my family, have been residents of Pittwater Ward (also for 50 years) and wish to strongly support the letter written by James Ricketson below.

It states everything we strongly believe in, and I sincerely hope it will result in a much better outcome than what is currently proposed in this DA 2020/1756 at Newport.

I am in disbelief at both the proposal and process so far, and trust you can put an urgent stop to the irreversible damage threatened to the very heart of Newport village

by what appears to be a hasty and rushed meeting of the planning panel to determine this DA.

Please table our and other resident's strong sentiments at the upcoming meeting, and keep us informed.

Yours sincerely

Rae Macpherson

(Newport Resident)

Andrew Macpherson

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Dear Planning Panel

I have been resident in Pittwater Ward for 50 years. For 10 of those years Newport has been my village, the hub of which is Robertson Road. I am currently residing in Avalon, but visit Robertson Road regularly to drink coffee and have breakfast in the sun.

I am fully in support of both the word and spirit of Mayor Regan's 23rd March 2021 'Mayoral Minute', which reads, in part:

"This high level of community interest, presents an opportunity for Council, landowners and the community to come together to better understand the vision for the Town Centre, and to also understand how the objectives of the Master plan may be realised if property owners, community and council work together to deliver developments that reflect the community's vision as is outlined in the Newport Masterplan and Pittwater 21 Control Plan."

Motion

That council write to land owners in the Newport Village Commercial Centre and local community groups inviting them to participate in a meeting/workshop with Council representatives to discuss the realisation of the vision to revitalise the Newport Village Commercial Centre as documented in the master plan prepared by Pittwater Council..."

Mayor Regan's Motion was carried, and a positive meeting of stakeholders, including Minister Rob Stokes, was held on 28th July this year. All present expressed their willingness to discuss this development proposal in a collaborative manner. Unfortunately, no real progress has been made since, to move the discussion to the next stage; a stage that should include NBC retaining the services of an urban designer "to progress the campaign's objectives... supported by the community."

I was surprised to learn, just yesterday, that the 'Planning Panel' will be meeting in what amounts to two business days to discuss the DA upon which the future of Newport Village hangs.

Questions arise:

QUESTION: When was it decided that the Planning Panel would meet on what is effectively the first day on which most Covid-related restrictions relating to gatherings are to be lifted?

QUESTION: Why have stakeholders been provided with what amounts to only 3 business days to make final submissions to the Panel?

In my own case, I have had to cancel my plans for the morning to make this submission. As a semi-retired filmmaker/journalist this does not present me with an insurmountable problem. It does, however, for mums and dads with busy schedules, getting kids off to school, going to work etc.

RECOMMENDATION: That the meeting of the Planning Panel be deferred until 700 or so Newport locals, who have very strong feelings about their village, have an opportunity to make their submissions.

QUESTION: Why has the Planning Panel decided to hold its meeting in cyberspace, allegedly for health-related reasons, when most restrictions on gatherings are to be lifted on the same day? In doing so, the Planning Panel is effectively denying locals an opportunity to make their feelings known through their presence. The attendance of many would involve those with jobs having to take a day off work but I suspect, given the feelings of the local community, that many would do so.

RECOMMENDATION: Defer the meeting of the Planning Panel until such time as it is possible to safely hold the meeting in public, locals having been given sufficient time to arrange their personal and professional lives in such a way as to make it possible for them to attend. The community would also appreciate it if such a meeting were to be held at an hour that makes it possible for as many as possible to attend.

QUESTION: Can members of the Planning Panel assess Robertson Road as a village hub whilst rain and wind is keeping local residents indoors?

RECOMMENDATION

Robertson Road comes alive in the sunshine. For members of the Planning Panel to visit it during this rainy, windy, weather will not do justice to how lively the Road is when the weather is good. This is another reason to defer the Panel's meeting until after there have been a few sunny days.

The Panel is being asked to assess a Development Application quite unlike most others. As must be clear to the Panel, as it is to Newport residents, this DA, if it proceeds, will be a nail in the coffin of Robertson Road as a social hub. The panel is not just deciding on the fate of one building, but on the fate of the hub of a village. If Robertson Road ceases to be the hub, there being no other part of Newport that can serve as such, this will be yet another nail in the coffin of Newport as a village. The final nail, I suspect.

There is an alternative way of approaching this complex and controversial DA, as you know. It is a proposal, in its infancy, that could be a win-win for all stakeholders - including the owner of the property that is the subject of the DA. Making this alternative a reality could be (and probably will be) difficult. But not impossible. It needs to be given a chance. This requires time and the procurement of an urban designer to build models of what could be achieved if all stakeholders came to the party.

FINAL QUESTION: Has 'Australia Post' been approached by Council, by the Planning Panel, to see if it would consider the alternative development proposal that is in its infancy?

Please add me to the list of locals in support of deferring a decision on the part of the Planning Panel for long enough for alternatives to be explored, as was intimated by Mayor Regan close to 9 months ago

yours sincerely  
James Ricketson