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26/07/2022

MR Angus Gordon
46 Taiyul RD
North Narrabeen NSW 2101

RE: DA2021/2173 - 394 Barrenjoey Road NEWPORT NSW 2106

I previously made a submission regarding the proposed seawall to protect the surf club. As a Coastal Engineer of over 50 years experience and having been involved in coastal matters at Newport since 1974 I pointed out that the proposed wall was likely to exacerbate the erosion and damage the clubhouse suffered in 1974 (I do have photos). Vertical walls of the nature proposed increase, not reduce wave runup, overtopping and likely resulting building damage. I recommended that the Water Research Laboratory of Uni NSW be engaged to undertake model studies to examine the likely behaviour of the wall (I am not associated with WRL but am aware of their expertise). It is standard engineering design practice to carry out such studies in circumstances such as at Newport. Council subsequently engaged WRL but only to review the consultants report, not to undertake the necessary studies. The WRL report covered the overall design in general terms BUT also recommended model studies to quantify the actual likely wave attack on the building. It also indicated the need, once the wave attack was determined, a structural engineer be consulted on the likely damage to the building. Given that the building is on strip footings, not piles and the solid water wave attack is likely to be more than 2m high the likely damage to the building could be severe. Given the costs of the refurbishment a failure to ensure the proposed seawall will in fact protect the building it is patently irresponsible to consider the DA without a proper engineering assessment using a standard engineering approach which includes a model test, which is not necessarily an expensive exercise and should have been undertaken over a year ago. I note that it is possible to overcome the threat to the building but experience dictates that the proposed wall may have significant difficulties in doing this. I also note that the original design did NOT include an analysis of overtopping and likely impact on the building. I am not against the surf club at all just irresponsible expenditure of public money on a design which may well not be fit for purpose. Again I say, this DA should not be felt with until recommended standard engineering design of the seawall takes place and this must include a physical model test which should have taken place over a year ago when I first drew Council's attention to the matter.