



northern
beaches
council

14 December 2021

Dear Planning Panel

DA2020/1756 – 351 ROBERTSON ROAD, NEWPORT

Robertson Road *could* be the heart of Newport. This proposed development is a stake through that heart.

I write in opposition to the proposed development at 351 Robertson Road, Newport.

I have read and considered the 262 community submissions on the proposal and the 122 submissions made by learned and passionate residents. I do not propose to repeat matters which have been so eloquently articulated.

What I will say is this.

At the heart of Local Government, at the core of local democracy, must be a common understanding, indeed, you would hope, a common requirement, that residents, landowners, public servants, elected representatives and developers work together to protect the public interest.

The community understands the commercial imperative for landowners to do with their land what they are permitted to do. That said, it seems a perversion of process where:

- (a) A landowner is readily allowed to depart from the development standards (maximum height is 13.9% to 37.6% above the mandated height limit), which Council so readily imposes and enforces upon everyone else, or so it seems; and
- (b) At the same time, the community resoundingly opposes such a development.

The possible approval of this development would be a devastating blow to the thousands of residents, represented by the hundreds of submissions made.

I urge the panel to reject this development application.

Thereafter, I call on Council to seek to update the Newport Masterplan to better reflect community wishes for Robertson Road and continue to work with landowners to achieve the best outcome for community. This will not be an easy or simple process. But, we owe it to our community, past, present and future, to work as hard as can, for as long as we need so as to achieve the best outcome.

Yours faithfully

Rory Amon
Councillor