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**From:** Prudence Wawn  
**Sent:** Monday, 13 December 2021 4:10 PM  
**To:** Planning Panels - Northern Beaches  
**Subject:** Save Robertson Road. DA2020/1756

**Categories:** DA2020/1756

Attention: Planning Panel members

I moved to Newport in 1960 with my parents and have remained on the peninsula on and off, ever since. The local shopping centres and low rise villages have mostly managed to avoid the ugly overdevelopment seen elsewhere and have kept their charm.

Robertson Road is a case in point with its appealing combination of businesses and relaxed environmental qualities, delivering a socially cohesive atmosphere in Newport, off the busy thoroughfare of Barrenjoey Rd, where folk get to sit and relax while supporting diverse creative enterprises. A major component of its charm is that the commercial premises have heaps of character and remain affordable, so that interesting community based initiatives can flourish there.

It's become a community destination, a drawcard for residents, a showcase of northern beaches peninsula creative diversity.

I am deeply unhappy that the planning panel has chosen to approve such inappropriate development here that will smash this pleasant outdoor eating environment with oversized buildings plus an ugly and intrusive entrance to garage parking in the middle of it all. More frequent car movements, belching fumes and increasing congestion and traffic numbers in this peaceful local gathering place will remove its appeal.

So much for all the motherhood statements about consultation and 'place plans' to meet the community needs. I suppose the real outcome is that all the people who have spent time and written submissions calling for a more sensitive planning response, have now learnt that the process is a bit of a farce. If the planning panel appointed by the state govt, is truly 'independent' surely this destructive development, smashing the heart of Newport's village centre, would not gain approval without a lot more changes being made to it.

Property developers, construction companies, engineering companies and engineering consultants, real estate agents, property consultants, architects and listed property trusts have donated over \$28 million to the Liberal Party since 2012.

The consequences of this hefty financial influence includes the lax enforcement of building standards, spot rezoning, overdevelopment and the removal of legislation such as sea level rise indicators for coastal councils. The Planning Minister proudly tearing up legislative 'red tape' has resulted in a NSW parliamentary inquiry into shonky building practises in apartment blocks and major developments across many council areas, with serious structural problems. Our faith in the system is diminishing fast. As is genuine participation.

The challenges faced by residents wanting to preserve local heritage are exacerbated by the proliferation of private certifiers, panels that are unaccountable to the community and the financial clout wielded by developers, making huge profits on their investments, quick to take councils to court to get their

way. Amendment after amendment wears down the community resistance until eventually the developer gets their initial proposal through.

Pittwater residents engaging with this Robertson Rd site on a regular basis must be considered in the decision making process, so that community needs are prioritised ahead of developer greed. Otherwise what actually is the point of having a planning panel?

Like many local people I urge you to reconsider the approval of this DA here and whatever else is coming, in order to moderate the impacts on Robertson Road, in line with community expectations, to retain a lovely streetscape that has evolved over time.

Yours sincerely,  
Pru Wawn