



www.surfingreserves.org

20 September 2023

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Northern Beaches Council
PO Box 1336
Dee Why NSW 2099

Re: **DA2021/1612**

**1 Clarke Street Narrabeen & 1192 Pittwater Road Narrabeen & 1194 Pittwater Road
Narrabeen & 1196 Pittwater Road Narrabeen & 1204 Pittwater Road Narrabeen
Construction of coastal protection works**

National Surfing Reserves (NSR) represents the 21 surfing reserves dedicated around the Australian coast at iconic surfing locations, including eight in NSW and North Narrabeen and Freshwater-Manly in Northern Beaches Shire. In relation to North Narrabeen National Surfing Reserve the NSR Board strongly objects to the continuation of the vertical seawall along Clarke St and section of Pittwater Rd as outlined in the above plans.

The existing vertical seawall has shown itself to be extremely unpopular with the community owing to its intrusion to the public beaches, its massive size and unsightliness and the hazard to beach users it causes when exposed to waves. While it is protecting a few private properties located in the immediate hazard zone it has severely degraded public beach amenity and substantially increased public risk. During its last period of exposure to large swells, the waves were hitting the vertical wall, the sand was removed and it was impossible to walk along the beach in front of the seawall. Anyone surfing off the wall was confronted with a vertical 5 m high concrete cliff at the end of the ride. At the same time boulders from the basement revetments were washed along the beach further extending its hazardous impact, boulders that have yet to be removed. This is in addition to afternoon beach shadowing and excessive erosion along the wall when exposed to waves. The existing wall should never have been built and an extension of this type should not be considered as it will just extend the problem generated by the existing wall. All these issues will be compounded as sea level continues to rise. I also note the Narrabeen-Collaroy CZMP has never included a plan for such a vertical seawall.

Four surf life-saving clubs are located along Narrabeen-Collaroy beach, with the world-reknown North Narrabeen NSR at its northern end. Such a globally popular urban beach should not be degraded further with this proposed development. On behalf of the North Narrabeen NSR, the NSR Board therefore requests that no further vertical seawalls be constructed or extended, and any future protective works be of a sloping revetment style and located entirely on private property.

On behalf of NSR Board

Professor Andrew D Short, OAM
NSR co-founder and Board member



Cc Surfrider Northern Beaches
Northern Narrabeen NSR Committee
North Narrabeen Boardriders