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Subject: Online Submission

18/11/2024

MR Peter Davidson
- 15 Hume ST
Yass NSW 2582

RE: DA2024/1216 - Gourlay Avenue BALGOWLAH NSW 2093

While not a resident of the North Harbour area, over the past 35 or so years I have been a regular visitor, staying at my sister's residence in King Avenue.

I am concerned that the proposed marina development will significantly change the character of the North Harbour area, which, compared with more developed areas of Sydney Harbour (such as Rushcutters Bay), is a quiet, backwater which provides wonderful recreational experiences for many and is important for biodiversity conservation. Many people walk around the southern shore of North Harbour for exercise and to soak up the tranquillity and wonders of the harbour and its adjacent forest. Accompanied by children and often dogs, the shoreline presents opportunities for play, mooching about or just sitting, as well as swimming, fishing, kayaking and similar activities. Being an ecologist/ornithologist, I have spent many hours birdwatching in the area and the reserves and national park.

The proposal to develop the North Harbour marina to cater for large yachts and other marine craft will significantly change the nature of the bay and its foreshores. Increased activity and vehicle movements and parking associated with the larger boats and proposed cafe will impact local habitats and wildlife.

I am concerned that the potential effects of the proposed development on sea grass beds, marine benthic fauna, crustacea and fish, as well as on the terrestrial environment - including the powerful owl and eastern whipbird have not been adequately assessed.

This proposed development is an example of the incremental changes to our cities and environment that erode local amenity and environment, adversely affect biodiversity conservation, significantly alter local "boutique" character and in eventually result in an urbane and depauperate uniformity.

It should not proceed.