

3 December 2019

Attention Carly Sawyer
Northern Beaches Council
Northern Beaches Local Planning Panel

RE: **DA2018/1692 (Portion 810/ Willandra Road Narraweena**

The core aims of the Warringah LEP and DCP (upon which this land resides) is to protect, maintain and enhance the ecology and biodiversity of our waterways and riparian lands. The Council encourages development to be located outside waterways and riparian land. This is because development can permanently destroy native flora, fauna, land stability and downstream waterways and their fragile ecosystems.

A riparian zone is an interface between land and a river or stream. This is the proper nomenclature for one of the terrestrial biomes of our earth. In Australia there are three major biomes, being tropical rainforests, Savanna woodlands and desert. Our biomes on the northern beaches are predominantly tropical rainforests. Plants on this earth are characterized by hydrophilic plants. These plants are critical to soil conservation, habitat biodiversity and the influence this has on aquatic ecosystems.

(NSW Riparian vegetation includes blackwood, ovens wattle, red stem wattle, blackthorn, crimson & river bottlebrush, river she-oak, apple box, river red gum, yellow box, manna gum, buran, river tea-tree and swamp paperbark). These plants provide a natural means for aquatic ecosystem protection and filtration. They provide food for our marsupials (ie: koalas, possums, platypus, flying foxes and lyre birds).

Our Koala population is under increasing threat of extension within our lifetime. The extensive bushland and marsupials we have just lost; and still are losing from the many burning fires across our country right now, is only making matters worse. Koalas need gum trees to survive, they are territorial and only eat certain types. This patch of trees on this land surrounding by only bushland on 3 sides, provides much needed food and shelter for our precious marsupials. Any reduction of tree canopy, underlying soils flora and fauna threatens our wildlife, our climate and changes our aquatic systems forever.

Why does this matter? It matters because we must think about how every local decision we make affects global changes to our environment. Every-time we say yes to destroying our fragile ecosystems we say yes to increased severe weather events and further destabilisation of our planet. The very real effects of this include interruption to our everyday way of life (ie: damage and loss of property, public buildings, loss of power, loss of crops, food wastage, polluted water, and inability to fulfil the ever increasing long list of insurance claims). This cannot be ignored any longer. 1 in 5 Australian's are concerned about increasing extreme weather events caused by our changing climate. The decisions we make today affect our lives today and the lives of those yet to be born tomorrow and those yet to be born 10, 20, 50, 100 years from now.

Protection of Riparian land and tree canopy is critical to protecting our planet. It is critical to support Council here in their decision that this development is NOT acceptable, this site is unsuitable because it is riparian land. The success of our Council meeting its commitments through its clear declaration that we are in a climate emergency is being directly threatened by this DA and others like it. Our Council is working hard by updating its LEP to ensure greater protection of these sensitive ecological riparian lands and bushlands. This cannot be ignored when assessing this application.

Council's submission to the Greater Sydney Commission's North District Plan advises that housing growth should be centres based, however despite local planning policy and residential development strategies council decisions are regularly overturned by gateway review such as at panel and court. This development is in direct opposition to Council's strategic plan to 2040 as it proposes incremental housing growth which is not centres or rapid transit based. Simply put this lot is not a suitable site, it is in the middle of bushland and it is NOT near a strategic centre nor rapid transport.

Furthermore, this DA must be quashed to prevent a ripple effect on the surrounding blocks.... Riparian land is simply NOT the right location for such a high density development. In addition, this micro apartment housing is not affordable as there is no rental cap, and it is not needed on the Northern Beaches. We already have many boarding house micro apartment blocks which are not fully rented because no one wants to live in them and they are not affordable. It is cheaper to rent a 3-4 bedroom house with a yard and a pool than one of these rooms.


It is simply illogical, and unjustifiable for this development to be approved. The only winner in this application is the applicant.

The Council doesn't want it and it isn't aligned to Council's Climate, Housing and Transport Strategies. The community doesn't want it and doesn't need it, and this is not land that is zoned for this kind of development. The flora, fauna, wildlife and aquatic ecosystems will be negatively impacted. So, I fail to see why this is a good idea.

Let's call it what it is, a stealth spot rezone attempt focused on financial gain by one party to the detriment of all others. Panel Members I implore you say NO to this application, standup for nature, standby the Council whose teams are working very hard to protect our environment. Saying NO enables Council to focus on delivering growth in appropriate locations while reducing impacts to our beautiful northern beaches fragile ecosystems.

We are the green lungs of Sydney. As a gentle reminder, we just lost hundreds of trees and birds to the cyclone last week right there on our Northern Beaches. Extreme weather events in the form of cyclones, bushfire and dust storms are on the rise. Three trees fell on my property last week and 2 birds died in my pool with many others found dead across our Peninsular. Climate impacts are real. We don't need any more trees to be lost. Please I implore you stand by our community, our wildlife, our flora, fauna, tree canopy and our aquatic ecosystems. Vote NO, this DA is just not acceptable. You have the power to do the right thing here, and I pray that you do.

Thank you for your time.



Gopala Maurer

President

Northern Beaches Strategic Community Group