
From: Don Champion
Sent: 26/10/2021 1:44:41 PM
To: Council Northernbeaches Mailbox
Subject: FW: Submission in support of DA 2021 /1612
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To :Northern Beaches Council,
Submission attached in support of DA 2021/1612 –SEA WALL
1190 – 1204 Pittwater Rd Narrabeen
Don Champion
1194 Pittwater Rd Narrabeen



Don Champion

1194 Pittwater Road, NARRABEEN NSW 2101

26th October, 2021

Submission in support of DA 2021/1612: Construction of Coastal Protection Works – (Sea Wall)

The dynamics of the beach envelope and its overlap with human foreshore habitation and infrastructure is fundamental for coastal management. On Narrabeen/Collaroy beach over many years, waves have been shifting sand from the open ocean coast alongshore and mainly into the mouth of the Narrabeen lagoon. The result has been recession on the surfing beach and a massive increase of sand into the lagoon mouth.

It is known that the Narrabeen/Collaroy ocean front is a “pocket beach”- meaning there is typically very little or no exchange of sediment between this beach and adjacent shorelines. Also some sand shifts temporarily off shore settling into the ocean effectively as nature’s reserve for the next storm event.

The foregoing is accepted as basic fact by coastal engineers – so it is reasonable to assume a Sea Wall in any form is not the root cause of loss of sand on a beach - particularly if it is professionally designed. There are massive amounts of sand off shore available – but it is proclaimed that the cost of returning it to the beach is too high, and politicians are not acting. However sand can be returned to the beach from other sources such as already undertaken by Council from time to time from the lagoon to enhance the public amenity. Shortage of sand is not due to Sea Walls or rock revetments.

The benefits (of a seawall) to those who live adjacent to the foreshore and to the public infrastructure and nearby road for essential transport far outweigh any alleged detrimental effect of a Sea Wall. This benefit is compounded too when the beach front owners are themselves financing the cost (90%) for all such protection rather than the public. Protests about Sea walls by activists are, as usual, loaded with misrepresentations and are misleading the public. For example, in 2002 during Council’s exhibition for its own proposed Sea Wall, a radical group placed photos around local suburbs (and within Council itself!) of a beach immediately after a major severe storm falsely claiming that this is how the beach would *permanently* look if Council’s project went ahead. This assertion was without foundation.

Sea level rise too is, of course, a vital consideration in maintaining *sustainability* into the future. Scientists say various techniques, including Sea Walls, may be appropriately applied to allow for continued habitat of humans and for the secure re-use of local and State infrastructure including transport access (Pittwater Road) – all at risk but otherwise made more secure with Sea Walls.

All that being said, I would also submit in support of the Sea Walls concept: that the United Nations itself has defined sustainability in 1987 as:

“Development that meets the need of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

The Seawall projects already completed (and this current one awaiting approval) are professionally designed and take both sustainability and the public amenity into account.