

**From:**  
**To:** [Planning Panels - Northern Beaches](#)  
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I am horrified to see that Council planners have been unable to find reason to refuse the development for Robertson Rd, Newport and that this will now be formally determined by the Planning Panel.

The insensitivity of this design to community needs and wants for a vibrant, functional village centre is notable. The community asks for space to gather, connect and share in local culture – yet the planning rules are so woefully inadequate, that a development can eat that space up for driveway and garage access. I am heartbroken that the Newport community is being failed. If this development is approved, Newport residents today will lose any hope of creating the village centre that they desire. The impact of this will be felt by everyone who uses Newport commercial centre today – and it fails to provide for generations to come.

We can and should do better than this. Our elected representatives and local and state level have failed to consult adequately with the Newport community on the future desires for OUR space. Yes, the block is privately owned and they have a right to develop it, but the insensitivity of this design means that the private interests are being satisfied at the expense of community need. This should never be allowed to happen – especially right in the heart of a community. It is disgustingly premature to rule now on the prime site at the heart of such a contested space. This development must be stalled while a full Place Plan is implemented for Robertson Road. Let's see then if it can meet the required standard for such an important plot.

Please do the right thing and give Newport its heart and soul back.

**Deborah Denman**