
Sent: 12/08/2021 12:45:54 PM

Subject: 351 Barrenjoey Road Newport - Application Number: DA2020/1756

Dear Mayor Regan and Mr Brownlee,

I continue to strongly oppose the ongoing Development Application submitted for 351 Barrenjoey Road for the following reasons:

1. Robertson Road properties (four in total) should be amalgamated and developed as one, as proposed and clearly exemplified in the Newport Masterplan.
2. If this individual development proceeds as presently proposed, then its vehicle access will be directly onto Robertson Road – destroying a once in a lifetime opportunity to see Robertson Road developed into the plaza type “Heart of Newport”.
3. The Newport Masterplan clearly states that properties should be consolidated to share underground parking – this development does not.

Since my initial objection dated 3 March 2021, I on behalf of Newport Residents Association have conducted an on-line survey (using Survey Monkey platform) focused on the Future of Robertson Road. In an eight-week period we have collected close to 1200 responses, including over 1000 people from the Newport 2106 Postcode. The feedback and the message is extremely clear, please reject the DA for 351 Barrenjoey.

Here is a sample of the key findings:

1. When asked – “Do you think Robertson Road is a unique and important place in Newport and should be assessed and developed accordingly: as the boutique, al fresco eating and community centre of the village?”

Over 95% of respondents either Agreed (8%) or Strongly Agreed (88%).

2. When asked – “Should any future redevelopment of Robertson Road and possibly surrounds be undertaken property by property or as part of a larger master plan?”

75% of respondents stated as part of a master plan. Only 11% stated property by property.

3. When asked – “Would you like to see Robertson Road (between Barrenjoey Road and Foamcrest Avenue)
a) Left as it is, with car access 24/7, b) Left as it is, with occasional closures for special events on a few days per year, c) Left as it is, with specific closure times such as 5pm Friday through to 5am Monday each week, d) Permanently closed and turned into a pedestrian plaza?”

Just 7% of respondents want it left as it is. The other 93% wanted some form of pedestrianisation with a clear majority wanting a permanent closure.

4. When asked – “What do you think are the key attributes that should be included in any future redevelopment of Robertson Road and surrounds? Please rank at least your top five.”

The top five requests were 1. Al fresco dining, 2. Boutique shops, 3. Pedestrianised, 4. Little arcades and 5. A weekly market area.

5. When asked – “Should any future redevelopment of Robertson Road be required to amalgamate and share underground parking thus minimising / eliminating carpark entrances on Robertson Road?”

Close to 60% of respondents voted YES, with only 15% stating NO, the remainder were Undecided.

6. Finally, when asked – “Should any future redevelopment of Robertson Road also include a) the Foamcrest Ave carpark and b) the shops between the carpark and Barrenjoey Road?”

Over 40% wanted the whole zone developed, 15% wanted Robertson Road and Carpark developed, 7% wanted Robertson Road and the shops between the carpark and Barrenjoey Road developed, 16% wanted just Robertson Road developed, whilst 20% remained undecided.

I have been encouraged that Council have hosted a first meeting with all Landowner and committed community members including Simon Barlow and Gavin Butler who first raised this issue with council. But this initial encouraging start will come to nothing if the DA for 351 Barrenjoey is allowed to proceed. We will really lose forever the opportunity to create a “Heart for Newport”.

Thus, I again ask Council and Councillors to reject the current DA for 351 Barrenjoey. Instead, look at the big picture and a current blank canvas and determine how you / we can truly make a long-term and meaningful change to Newport by working with the community and the owners of the aforementioned properties.

Have courage and work with the community. People aren’t anti-development, in fact I would suggest the mood in Newport is pro-development, if the correct plan in accordance with the Masterplan can be put together. Think big, be bold and bring forward something the whole community – including the developers – can be proud to say they made happen.

Kind regards,

Glenn Moore

Glenn Moore

Executive Director

Aurora BioScience Pty Ltd

Mobile: +61 (0)418 609 207

Physical: Unit 4, 22 Lexington Drive, Bella Vista, NSW, 2153

Postal: PO Box 946, Baulkham Hills, NSW, 2153

Australia: 1300 309 994 (Ph) / (02) 9838 7621 (Fax)

New Zealand: 0800 533 272 (Ph) / 0800 533 273 (Fax)



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