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To: DA Submission Mailbox
Subject: Online Submission

21/11/2024

MR Grant Melzer
70 / 70 - 70 ST
Balgowlah NSW 2093

RE: DA2024/1216 - Gourlay Avenue BALGOWLAH NSW 2093

To Whom It May Concern:

Please see below concerns regarding DA2024/1216. It is for the below reasons I strongly oppose this application.

Parking: The proposed development is likely to significantly impact the quiet nature of the area, introducing increased traffic, noise, and activity. With the current parking infrastructure already insufficient to accommodate local demand, the additional strain from visitors to the development could exacerbate congestion, make parking even more limited, and disrupt the community's peace and accessibility. This development could transform the area from a tranquil space into a more crowded and less pedestrian-friendly environment.

Environmental Impact: The proposed commercial waterfront development, particularly with the introduction of large vessels, poses a significant risk to the local underwater ecosystem. The increased boat traffic can lead to underwater habitat disruption, propeller wash, and sediment disturbance, which can negatively impact marine life and water quality. Additionally, the potential for fuel spills, noise pollution, and the spread of invasive species could further threaten the delicate balance of the ecosystem, affecting both plant and animal species that rely on the area for survival.

Noise Pollution: The commercial waterfront development, with the operation of large vessels, will contribute to significant noise pollution in the area. The constant sounds of engines, propellers, and ship-to-dock operations can disrupt the natural acoustics of the waterfront, affecting both human residents and wildlife. For marine animals, particularly those that rely on echolocation and communication, the noise can interfere with feeding, mating, and navigation, potentially displacing species and disturbing their natural behaviour. This increase in noise pollution could reduce the overall quality of life for the community and harm the surrounding ecosystem.

Safety: The development, with the presence of large vessels, could create significant recreational water safety issues. The increased vessel traffic and large ship manoeuvres may pose a hazard to smaller boats, kayakers, and swimmers, especially in areas where recreational activities are common. The size and speed of commercial vessels can create dangerous wakes, limit visibility, and increase the risk of collisions, putting both boaters and pedestrians at risk. Additionally, the congested waterway could reduce safe navigation space for recreational users, heightening the potential for accidents and injuries.

It is for these reasons I strongly oppose the proposed waterfront development due to its potential negative impacts on the community and environment. The development will exacerbate existing parking issues, overwhelming an already insufficient infrastructure. It also poses significant environmental risks, including disruption to local ecosystems and increased noise pollution from large vessels, which will harm both wildlife and quality of life in the area. Additionally, the increased vessel traffic creates serious water safety concerns, particularly for recreational users. This development threatens to compromise the peaceful, sustainable nature of the waterfront and should not move forward.