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MR Steve Jacobs
11 Ebor RD
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RE: DA2022/0469 - 1102 Barrenjoey Road PALM BEACH NSW 2108

This is another example of the DA approval process failing the community. Such examples are aplenty in Palm Beach with much finger pointing by councillors and bureaucrats as to why nothing can be done or our hands are tied. There are numerous development/DA sites like this one that reveal a system which supports development over resident outrage. The hot air at the recent local elections from council candidates spruiking the environment and unique feel of Pittwater, is just that, hot air. The approval system is basically run by bureaucrats, town planners and then on piled on with consultants. How the old fish shop finally got to this monstrosity reveals how the system works - the mock heritage facade, the deceptive photo montage, the breaking of the Pittwater LEP rules and this obsession with commercialising every inch of Pittwater with retail outlets reveals an environmental and aesthetic vandalism that has run amok because building codes are meaningless. Nothing will change until there is an entirely new approach enforced by the elected officials and the bureaucrats we pay to protect us. I'm afraid this is not a DA fight but a political one at both a council and state level, and until residents realise their voices count for nothing this galloping disregard will continue. Representative government is precisely that representative, the anger over this and other developments is not the will of the people but another agenda that has nothing to do with those that live here and pay rates - 40% of which goes on council wages. Why should ratepayers be the guardians of the area when it is the job of others to do so - who gauging from community anger have obviously failed miserably. The DA approval process and the planning department needs radical change, indeed they need to be replaced with a structures and personnel that strictly enforce community agreed building standards. Heaven help us if the present approval process continues with a new LEP/DCP, we will become the new Dee Why. We need to regain our rights and representation and demerge from an over bloated and unresponsive Northern Beaches Council. Have your say????