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17/03/2025

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BALGOWLAH NSW 2093
[REDACTED]

RE: DA2024/1216 - Gourlay Avenue BALGOWLAH NSW 2093

I am objecting to the amended DA for North Harbour Marina. The changes are an improvement but there are two things that have not been addressed.

The 50m channel is dangerous and should not be implemented. It will enable boats to speed and travel recklessly in this area. There are so many small water-craft, such as kayaks, that use the area, and boats travelling faster will be unable to avoid them. The current congested waterway acts as a safety measure, an inadvertent traffic calming measure. Boats travel very slowly to navigate this space and this is why there have been no serious accidents in decades.

The 50m channel is clearly unnecessary. The NSW State Government gave Treharne Marina a \$650K grant a year ago to become a destination wharf. Maritime did not deem a widened channel necessary for that significant increase in boating traffic. North Harbour Marina is not a destination wharf and will not attract anything like the volume of traffic that Treharne Marina attracts. If a widened channel was not needed for a busy wharf it will not be needed for this private wharf that has much reduced traffic after removing access from all the local boats that used it prior to the ownership change.

The 50m channel will attract large boats even if they cannot berth. Large stationary boats, using their motors to maintain GPS positioning, will only add to the danger in our erstwhile peaceful bay.

In short, the 50m channel will not improve safety and will in fact do the opposite. Faster moving vehicles, whether on road or water, are far more dangerous.

My other concern is the removal of boating services. NSW Maritime insist on all boats moored in the harbour being properly maintained, That primarily involves anti-fouling on the hull which requires a dry dock. North harbour had four slips before the Treharne development. If North Harbour Marina removes their slips, there will be no dry dock services here. The closest dry docks will be at Clontarf and Castlecrag. What is to stop those shipwrights being turned into cafes too? The Maritime lease's objective is to provide boating services to the local community.

In short, do not allow the 50m channel. It is a recipe for noise, collision and danger. Our bay attracts so many local kayakers because it is beautiful, safe and peaceful. Do not let North Harbour Marina destroy that.