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05/10/2021

MR Paul Maddock
- 2 OCEANIA CRES
NEWPORT NSW 2106

RE: DA2021/1612 - 1 Clarke Street NARRABEEN NSW 2101

To the Assessing Officer

I began surfing along the South Narrabeen stretch of beach in the early 1970s and have continued surfing from time to time in this area ever since. Given this, I am very familiar with the dynamic nature of the South Narrabeen beach and the impacts that occasional large storms have on it.

I am lodging an objection to DA2021/1612 regarding the construction of a vertical beachfront seawall on the following grounds:

(i) A vertical wall constructed on the ocean front will have a serious long term detrimental effect on the beach. Instead, consideration should be given to the construction of a revetment (sloping) wall. Following times of high storm activity causing beach sand erosion, the beach will recover more quickly with a sloping rock revetment wall;

(ii) The DA submitted appears to be incomplete in that it proposes that a seawall is constructed on the beachfront in front of the houses and apartment buildings from 1 Clarke Street to 1204 Pittwater Road, however it does not indicate what is proposed for the area in front of South Narrabeen SLSC. On this basis alone the DA should be rejected.

(iii) The necessity for sand nourishment following inevitable major storms in the future is not adequately addressed in the DA. The proposed vertical seawall will exacerbate massive erosion along the beachfront. The DA does not adequately indicate how beach sand nourishment will occur to restore the beach.

(iv) The vertical seawall that is proposed will be an ugly blight on the oceanfront. It is an example of a brutalist construction. It would appear that in designing this structure the pre-eminent consideration has been the protection of beachfront houses, with barely any consideration given to aesthetics. Note: It is also almost inevitable that this structure will ultimately become covered in graffiti.

There has been a woeful lack of engagement with the broader community on proposed seawall developments to date. The DAs for seawalls in the stretches of beach from Stuart to Wetherill Streets and Wetherill to Clarke Street received minimal opposition because the broader community was simply not made aware of what was being proposed. This appears to have been a deliberate strategy. That is, to revert to the DA process for public notification rather than use broader engagement processes such as Council's 'Your Say' site etc meant that very few people got to hear about it prior to the approval to build being granted.

I participated in good faith in a focus group convened by Council in 2016 to consider alternative designs / solutions for sea walls along Collaroy Narrabeen beach. I left the meeting confident that I would be informed before the next stage of planning proceeded. Since then I have received no formal notification of the proposed construction of seawalls. The first I became aware of the sections of vertical seawalls that had

been proposed and approved was when articles started appearing in the news media showing the seawalls under construction. One can only conclude that Council has failed its obligation to keep the public adequately informed on this critically important matter.

The simple undisputable fact is that houses and flats should never have been allowed to be built along this stretch of coastline. In a sense the current Council has inherited this problem. The optimum solution would have been for Council to buyback the properties and return the area to the sand dune environment that existed originally. Unfortunately, it would seem this was not an economically viable solution and Council has instead opted for a seawall solution, without adequate public consultation, that pleases a few but angers the majority.