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To: "DA Submission Mailbox" <DASubmission@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Online Submission

05/10/2021

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

I strongly object to the proposed seawall (DA2021/1612) for the following reasons.

I have an intimate knowledge of the beach having lived on Ocean Street, Narrabeen (1977-2007) and conducted monthly surveys along the entire beach 1976-2007. I was also a member of the Warringah Coastal Management Committee 1996-2007, the NSW Coastal Council 2011-2019, and am presently a member of the Eurobodalla Coastal Management Advisory Committee (2011-present). I am therefore very familiar with the history and issues associated with the beach and coastal issues in general.

Narrabeen-Collaroy beach is one of Sydney's most popular and heavily used beach's with four Surf Life Saving Clubs and one boardriding club, together with swimming clubs at either end. It has also been the site of State, National and International surf lifesaving and surfing contests. It is valued for its location, public beach access and amenity and outstanding surf. As such it is imperative that the beach be maintained so as to maximise benefit to the public. Construction of seawalls, as has recently occurred at the Collaroy carpark and between Wetherill and Ramsay Streets is degrading both the beach and foredune, public amenity and public safety.

The proposed high vertical seawall with a loose rock toe will create a permanent eye-saw and hazard to all who use the beach. It will be regularly exposed to wave attack and at times extreme waves attack as in June 2016. At these times there will be no beach - just the vertical wall and rock toe which is likely to be eroded and rocks distributed across the beach and surf zone. This will hinder and/or prevent public access along the beach and pose a hazard to all using the beach and surf at these times. With sea level rising and more intense storm predicted these events are likely to increase in frequency into the future. To build such a wall is a negative, quick-fix band-aid that will not remove the problem - that of property being located in the beach hazards zone, the zone regularly exposed to wave attack.

The solution is voluntary repurchase of the beachfront properties, as has occurred in the past along both Narrabeen and Collaroy beaches, thereby removing the at risk property and turning the land over to public open space which can come and go as waves dictate without attracting international headlines. While this would be expensive, so too is the seawall not to forget the value of Narrabeen-Collaroy beach - it is priceless.