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Subject: Online Submission

01/03/2021

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RE: DA2020/1756 - 353 Barrenjoey Road NEWPORT NSW 2106

I am another long-term resident who is strongly opposed to the new development proposed for Robertson Road.

It's been heartbreaking to watch Newport be slowly destroyed over the last several years by this 'bunker style' architecture. As has been demonstrated on Barrenjoey Road, retail tenants are reluctant to take up leases in such cold and unappealing shop fronts. The area has become lifeless, to the point that I no longer have any reason to visit Newport centre and now do all of my shopping in Mona Vale, even though I live an easy walking distance to Newport 'village' (although calling it a village is a stretch).

The Newport street front is now filled with bland medical practices - offices which few people need to visit regularly and a sure sign that the region is failing. Even walking the dog through the streets is depressing and dull. Apart from the essential Coles, the places that most people I know visit are Zubi, the new Rukus and Harvest - all businesses that have character and personality.

It's essential that this bunker style of development be stopped before the suburb is completely destroyed. Why isn't Council demanding a far more creative design using materials that are common in our famed Newport Weekenders, such as timber cladding and sandstone?

We have the opportunity now to create a heart for Newport - an area that would allow for cafes, outdoor dining and retail spaces that tenants (and customers) would clamour to get in to. Please do it before it's too late.