
Sent: 20/08/2021 2:56:52 PM
Subject: Online Submission

20/08/2021

MR James Ricketson
316 Whale Beach RD
Palm Beach NSW 2108
jamesricketson@gmail.com

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

I have lived on the Northern Beaches for fifty years, mostly in Palm Beach but, for 6 or 7 years, in Hillside Road, Newport. My travel agent was Newport Travel, my Indian take-away was in Robertson Road and, even when I lived at Palm Beach, it was the old grocer store on the corner where, for decades, I bought my vegetables, and got to know well the family that ran it. I mention this because I have been part of the Newport community for many years, even when living at Palm Beach. The key word here is 'community'. A strength of a community resides, in large part, in the spaces in which members of it can meet formally and informally, bump into each other, meet for coffee, sit in the sun and chat. The lower southern end of Robertson Road has been just that. A special place in the heart of Newport; in the village of Newport; in a village which a combination of developer lack of architectural imagination, and a Council with little understanding of what makes a village, a village, is on the verge of destroying. This part of Robertson Road is ideally suited to being transformed into a pedestrian plaza which, if well designed, could enhance Newport's village feel for future generations of villagers. The proposed development, especially the large garage, will be a nail in the coffin of this delightful village. It is a great shame, to say the least, that Northern Beaches Council, since amalgamation, has treated the various villages that make up this wonderful part of the Sydney coastline with a lack of understanding of what it is that makes a village; of what it is that makes Newport special. I suspect that the Council has little understanding of how passionately we locals feel about this, and other plans to destroy local villages. We all look at Dee Why and see what is coming if developments such as this are passed by Council. If this development is approved by the Council, expect that a fierce campaign will be waged to see to it that Councillors who voted for it are not re-elected to Council.