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Subject: Online Submission

12/11/2025

MR Edward Brand
12 Bolingbroke PDE
Fairlight NSW 2094
[REDACTED]

RE: DA2025/1570 - 290 Lower Plateau Road BILGOLA PLATEAU NSW 2107

Edward Brand
12 Bolingbroke Pde
Fairlight NSW 2094
[REDACTED]

12th November 2025

The General Manager
Northern Beaches Council
PO Box 82
Manly NSW 1655

Subject: Objection to Development Application 2025/1570 at 290 Lower Plateau Road, Bilgola
2107- Biodiversity Constraints and Squirrel Glider Habitat

Dear General Manager,

I wish to formally object to Development Application 2025/1570 at 290 Lower Plateau Road, Bilgola currently under consideration by the Northern Beaches Council. My objection is based on significant biodiversity concerns relating to the site, in particular the likely presence of Squirrel Gliders (*Petaurus norfolcensis*), which are an endangered species under the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016. There is an endangered population of Squirrel Gliders on the Barrenjoey Peninsula north of Bushrangers Hill (See attached NSW Scientific Determination 1996). Additionally, the presence of Duffy's Forest Threatened Ecological Community and high value native habitat trees for threatened species on the site warrants the submission of an ecological report.

During recent observations in the locality, from my walks in Newport Heights Reserve above and the street frontage below, there is clear evidence suggesting Squirrel Glider activity, including distinct chew marks on mature Eucalypts, such as *Angophora Costata* and *Corymbia gummifera*, and extensive numbers of tree hollows suitable for nesting and sheltering (See Photo 1). These indicators strongly suggest that the site forms part of an important habitat corridor for this species.

There have been many anecdotal sightings of Squirrel Gliders by residents in the area. I am also aware that a dead Squirrel Glider was found nearby in Loombah Street, Bilgola Plateau at the end of 2017 (See Photo 2). The removal or disturbance of native habitat trees would be likely to have a direct and detrimental impact on local biodiversity and the persistence of Squirrel Glider populations within the Northern Beaches area.

The Biodiversity Conservation Act and the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 requires Council to consider a significant impact (Section 7.3) to Duffys Forest TEC and Squirrel Gliders. The Council has a duty to ensure that development proposals adequately assess ways to Avoid and Minimise impacts on threatened species and their habitats in the way of a 5-part test which is high likely to trigger a BDAR Report. The current documentation for DA 2025/1570 does not appear to include a comprehensive Biodiversity Assessment Report or species-specific survey for Squirrel Gliders, which is required given the evidence of their potential presence.

Given these concerns, I respectfully request that Council:

1. Refuse the current development application until a full biodiversity and habitat assessment is undertaken by a qualified ecologist; and
2. Protect and retain a higher proportion of habitat trees and associated vegetation within and adjacent to the site to ensure the ongoing viability of local wildlife populations.

The Northern Beaches area is home to unique ecological communities that require careful stewardship. Approving development without thorough environmental assessment risks irreversible loss of biodiversity and the degradation of critical wildlife corridors in our local community.

Thank you for considering this objection. I trust Council will take these concerns seriously and ensure the protection of this important habitat.

Yours faithfully,
Edward Brand.