

Newport Residents Association Inc.

PO Box 1180 Newport Beach NSW 2106 President - Gavin Butler (gebutler@aapt.net.au) 0409 395 102 Hon. Secretary – secretary.newport.org.au Hon. Treasurer - Kyle Hill 0412 221 962

www.newport.org.au

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The Manager National Parks & Wildlife Service, Sent via e-mail commercial.enquiries@environment.nsw.gov.au

We are writing to express our concerns about NPWS concept plans for short term accommodation at Barrenjoey Headland and in particular use of the lightkeepers cottages. Further we are concerned that the concept plans for all the cottages will require such changes as to eliminate their current heritage values.

We are totally opposed to the conversion of the lightkeepers cottages for short stay accommodation for the following reasons;

ACCESS

The concept proposals state that no vehicle access will be permitted beyond the existing carpark. We have no confidence that it would be sustained due to the expectation of international visitors who would expect not to have to carry their baggage along the beach and up the walking track. There would soon be demands for a shuttle bus.

Contractors for room servicing and cleaning would also soon demand vehicle access. Guests not wanting to prepare meals would expect transport to restaurants and return late at night.

In short we believe a ban on vehicle access would very soon be overturned given the pressure of making a return on very substantial investments. In our view the beach and the walking track are completely unsuitable for safe shared use by walkers and the walkers access has to be maintained on an unlimited basis.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

We see an issue with these very special public buildings not being available to the public and being alienated for a small number of guests. Therefore we believe the focus should be on finding appropriate uses that can be enjoyed by the rapidly growing number of walkers

In summary and for the reasons outlined above we urge you to withdraw from any proposal for short stay accommodation especially in the lightkeepers cottages and to concentrate on finding uses for these buildings which can be shared by the large and rapidly growing number of walkers visiting the area.

Yours sincerely,

Gavin Butler President