



Newport Residents Association Inc.

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30th June 2016

Mr Dick Persson,
Administrator
Northern Beaches Council
725 Pittwater Road,
Dee Why NSW 2099

Dear Mr Persson,

Re Submission re Proposed Independent Planning Assessment Panel - North

We refer to the proposed charter for the creation of an independent assessment panel for planning as per the interim charter placed on exhibition at the council meeting of the 2nd June 2016. We note this charter is based on the Manly & Warringah models.

In principle the Newport Residents Association is not against the adoption of an expert panel however has a few concerns and recommendations as follows;

1. The objectives of the charter should refer to public participation as an essential part of the assessment process and further that informed community and individual opinion relevant to the consideration of the merits of a development proposal shall be formally considered and accounted for in the formal planning consideration, decision and conditions of consent.
2. The four members of the public (as a pool of representatives from the community) should be given basic planning training including an outline of the Objects of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (as amended), the consideration of planning merits and how to weigh up public input into the consideration of development applications etc.
3. We believe anyone associated with the Real Estate Industry or development of property should be excluded from selection to the panel.
4. We are concerned that the selection of any panel member is at the sole discretion of the General Manager and believe until the council has elections the Administrator should approve the selection recommended by the General Manager and after council elections a panel of Councillors should be the approval body.
5. We believe all NBIAP-N meetings should be held in public and be transparent.
6. Under item 3 Development Applications to be Referred to NBIAP-N, we believe there should be another referral category whereby a DA or Sect 96 (2) Application maybe referred by two or more councillors on the basis of Public Interest considerations.

Yours faithfully,

Gavin Butler
President