

**Submission
No 17**

**INQUIRY INTO PLANNING SYSTEM AND THE IMPACTS
OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND
COMMUNITIES**

Name: Mrs Lee Szlachetka
Date Received: 18 October 2023

SUBMISSION FOR :

PLANNING SYSTEM AND IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITIES.

My name is Lee Szlachetka and I am a resident of Terrigal nsw, wamberal beach volunteer surf life saver and member of the dune restoration group for Wamberal beach.

I am raising my concerns for the proposed 3.2km seawall that is potentially being built along Wamberal beach, NSW on the Central Coast.

I oppose this for the following reasons.

1. It is a scientifically proven fact that seawalls deplete beaches of sand and erode beaches (in our case-lagoons) at either ends. There is also 40 acres of national park at one end that there has been no research on the affects the seawall will have on this pristine, precious commodity. Wamberal is an extremely rare beach where it has lagoons at both ends and these must be protected!
2. The impact on the residents and businesses at both ends of the lagoon will be impacted as the water will have no where to go and flood these properties. This will only get worse as sea levels rise as well. NO LAGOON STUDIES HAVE EVER BEEN DONE.
3. There are blocks of public land that council are trying to obtain from the federal government so the wall can be built without input from the community.
4. Community groups such as nippers, board riders, surf life saving carnivals etc as well as the general public will have no beach to enjoy their activities.
5. It will affect our tourist industry. Not only will there be no beach but can you imagine looking at a 3.2 km wall along a beach!!! What an eyesore!
6. There has been hardly any consultation and given that the local council is under administration, the community feel we are not being represented or even listened to.

WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO HAPPEN

1. A better option to be incorporated. Example- sand renourishment (Stockton is a great example).
2. Revegetation of the sand dunes.
3. Gradual buy back and release.
4. Testing and studies should be conducted on impacts to the lagoons, national parks and beach.

For the sake of my son (who does nippers and will one day have Wamberal as his surf beach), the community, the residents, the volunteer dune care teams and the businesses that share this beach, please take into account this proposed Sea Wall when you are assessing the impacts of planning and climate change on communities and the environment.

Kind Regards

Lee Szlachetka.