

Submission
No 127

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

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 21 October 2023

Partially
Confidential

A DA by both the Central Coast (CC) Council and approx 60 Dune Beach residents is due to be submitted in Nov 23 to build a vertical concrete seawall at Wamberal Beach (8m by 1.3km long).

The seawall build will demolish the existing dunes and will extend from the Terrigal lagoon opening to the Wamberal Lagoon opening.

The Wamberal and Terrigal Lagoon residents who have not been engaged by Council on the development and fearing possible increased lagoon flooding as a result of the seawall have reached out to Coastal experts (Angus Gordon and Prof Andrew Short) who confirmed a real risk of increased lagoon flooding as a result of the seawall. This will impact more than 200 homes on and near the lagoons.

Lagoon residents have also confirmed that no lagoon impacted flood studies regarding the proposed development have been performed by CC Council, even though this is required in terms of the NSW Floodplain Management Manual and the Terrigal and Wamberal Floodplain Management Plans

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Consideration should be given to appointing a Commissioner to:

- determine why the CC Council has not performed any flood studies, nor engaged the community and stakeholders as is required by the NSW Floodplain Management Manual;
- whether it is feasible that the CC Council hold conflicting roles, a) as joint DA applicant b) as DA assessor c) supporter to the Approval Panel, considering it also is responsible for managing the Terrigal and Wamberal Floodplains. Especially when the CC Council is currently run by an administrator and not a Council representing rate paying residents.
- determine why the State Government is not providing an holistic and sustainable approach to how Coastal Communities are to address coastal erosion, coastal flooding and climate change. Councils do not have the capability and bandwidth to address these issues.