

The Hon. Paul Scully MP
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

I am a local resident on the Northern Beaches and am writing to oppose the proposed rezoning of land at Patyegarang, Morgan Road, Belrose, or “Lizard Rock” (PP-2022-3802). I write on behalf of those who cannot write a submission for themselves – the wildlife that live at Lizard Rock, and the future generations who have a right to a healthy natural environment.

This proposal must be refused for the following reasons:

- **Loss of habitat** for iconic species of flora and fauna such as swamp wallabies. This bushland forms part of a wildlife corridor connecting private land, Garigal National Park, and Narrabeen Lagoon State Park. This area has high biodiversity value and is irreplaceable.
- **Impacts on the Narrabeen Lagoon Catchment** as stormwater from the development will flow down hill, with less bushland to filter the water before it enters the estuary. This will impact on threatened species including the red-crowned toadlet and spotted-tail quoll in the bushland, and on marine animals that live in the lagoon.
- **Loss of Sydney's Green lungs** as trees are renowned for their ability to improve air quality, help to cool urban areas, and draw down carbon from the atmosphere into the ground. With the threat of climate change, every tree plays an important role in drawing down carbon, and helping to mitigate urban heat impacts.
- **Some of the sites are at significant risk of bushfire events.** This would mean we are building houses in places we know that people may not be safe in the future. Northern Beaches Council has obtained independent advice on bushfire risks at the Lizard Rock site, which identified that the site includes areas of Very High – Extreme risk. The report also identified concerns about the safety and viability of evacuation. This proposal will likely require significant asset protection zones, which would further erode the wildlife corridor.
- **Traffic and urban sprawl** – this proposal will create problems with urban sprawl, as more houses are built away from urban centres, and so the residents will be reliant on cars, rather than being within a short walk or bus ride to places. This will contribute towards local traffic congestion on Forest Way, Wakehurst Parkway, and Warringah Road.
- **Broader Strategic planning implications** - the proposed housing is happening in isolation to the broader strategic planning being done by Northern Beaches Council to meet housing needs and plan for issues such as traffic and services in a holistic way across the entire Northern Beaches.

- **Negative precedent in the deferred lands** – The Northern Beaches Council is undertaking a strategic review of land use in the Metropolitan Rural Area in Oxford Falls and Belrose. Using an evidence based approach, the Council's draft plans are to zone private land in this area as Rural and C3 Environmental Management zoning. Approving the planning proposal would create an inappropriate precedent that other landowners in the MRA can also seek a spot rezoning, further eroding the remaining bushland on private land.

The Northern Beaches Bushland Guardians recently tabled their petition which received 12,000 signatures to save the land at Lizard Rock and other bushland identified in the Development Delivery Plan from development. There is strong community support to find a conservation based solution that works for everyone, and we ask for the State Government's support and assistance to find a solution.