

November 3, 2014

Mark Ferguson
General Manager
Pittwater Council
P O Box 882
Mona Vale 1660



Dear Mark

Re: 139 Thompson Street, Scotland Island – DA Application Number: N0084/14

The SIRA Committee has been contacted by a number of residents and members of SIRA who have raised their concerns about a significant matter. Specifically, that without proper consultation in conjunction with the above DA, the owners have been granted permission to remove a boulder on the adjacent road reserve and have vehicular access to the property along Thompson Street in a section currently designated as a walking track.

After discussion with some of these residents at a SIRA Committee meeting on Sunday 2nd November, 2014, it was agreed that SIRA request Council to halt any works which allow:

- i) vehicular access along the unformed Thompson Street road reserve leading to No. 139;
- ii) removal of a substantial boulder on the road reserve

This will allow time for further community consultation on the matter and for questions and issues to be considered by Council. It should be noted that in previous discussions with Council staff after construction in this area was carried out without consultation, it was agreed by Council staff that this would be done for any future road reserve works.

We understand that application was made for vehicular access and removal of the boulder subsequent to the original DA. The Statement of Environmental Effects available on the Council website, states in Streetscape and Character, Section 4.1: *"There will be no significant change to the streetscape as the house is approached by a gravel walking track and existing rock formations close to the track will not be disturbed"*.

This SEE appears to predate the request for the measures listed above. We are unable to find an amended DA Application on Council's website. Would you please forward us all the documentation relating to these approvals, including environmental reports?

We seek clarification on questions raised by residents which are listed in Attachment 1.

We ask that Council respond quickly in resolving these issues so that we can communicate this information to our community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'W.R. Gye'.

President
SIRA

Cc: Mark Shaw; Ross McWhirter; Paul Davies; Steve Evans

ATTACHMENT 1

139 Thompson Street, Scotland Island – DA Application Number: N0084/14

We seek clarification on the following questions:

- (i) What consent has been given and what was the process by which the approvals were granted? The current understanding is that the application for vehicular access and boulder removal were made subsequent to the lodgment of the original DA Application.
- (ii) Has a Section 139 Consent for Works on a Public Road Reserve been granted?
- (iii) Why has the *Statement of Environmental Effects, Streetscape and Character, Section 4.1: "There will be no significant change to the streetscape as the house is approached by a gravel walking track and existing rock formations close to the track will not be disturbed"* not been taken into consideration?
- (iv) What required environmental assessments have been completed in relation to the public land on road reserve?
- (v) How is this approval compatible with Council's adopted *Scotland Island Road Reserve Strategy 2010* which shows in the maps and recommendations that Thompson Street as a walking track from Lot 135/137 (chainage 1090 – 1460) with no vehicular access provided to Lots 139, 141 and 143?
- (vi) How do the approvals fulfill the State requirements for environmental assessment for works within the Endangered Ecological Community of Pittwater Spotted Gum Forest?
- (vii) What significance assessment has been undertaken for geodiversity, landscape heritage and soil stabilization in relation to the boulder? The boulder on the road reserve is viewed by many residents as a significant natural landscape feature, outstanding in shape, size and location?
- (viii) What controls have been attached to the approval for vehicular access during construction? The Island's roads are extremely erodible, with rutting and compaction quickly leading to water erosion. How will any damage to be assessed or rectified?
- (ix) How has Council considered its liability for the safety of vehicles using this narrow section of unformed road reserve, currently designated as "walking track only" in the Scotland Island Road Reserve Strategy?