



28 October 2021

**Re DA/1022/2021 - Torrens title Subdivision of One Lot into 60 residential allotments.**

The aim of Friends of Berowra Valley is to protect the natural landscape, heritage and biodiversity of Berowra Valley while making the valley more accessible to the community.

After reviewing the Biodiversity Report for this DA we would like to submit our objection to this DA.

**Resident Powerful Owls**

We note that Powerful Owls were observed and are likely using the property as a nesting site. This property is ideal habitat for Powerful Owls for the following reasons:

- Close proximity to Pyes Creek
- Plenty of open areas attracting Powerful Owl prey species such as magpies
- Plenty of trees to attract possums which are another Powerful Owl prey species
- Low disturbance
- Low traffic
- Low light pollution.

We know that car and glass strikes are the leading causes of mortality for Powerful Owls (with estimates in Sydney of 12% of the population dying each year this way). Urban Forests are increasingly important due to the huge loss of habitat from the recent fires.

A road will be created through the middle of the forest. Not only will this fragment the Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest (STIF) but the increase in traffic and night light will have a significant impact on the Powerful Owls.

**Ecosystem Services**

This property allows for a healthy ecosystem with plenty of trees which give us oxygen and store carbon and a landscape that cleans the water as it slowly seeps through to Pyes Creek.

**Community Services**

This development will be huge lost opportunity for the local community. Cramming in small lots without also considering community needs will be divisive and an ongoing source of contention.

We ask where is the vision that initially led to the gifting of this land to the Catholic Community?

Surely it was to create a place of peace and preservation. For over a millennia this land has served this purpose. Now this development will remove 234 trees to create 60 households with potentially 60-120 cars with more than 200 people next to the forest.

### **Conclusion**

The Friends of Berowra Valley call for the Sisters of Mercy Parramatta to reconsider the need to develop this oasis and allow it to be preserved as a parkland for the whole community. We also strongly oppose the road which will be built through the Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark Forest (STIF).

Yours sincerely,  
Karen Benhar  
President – Friends of Berowra Valley

<https://birdlife.org.au/projects/urban-birds/powerful-owl-project-pow>  
[https://birdlife.org.au/documents/Powl\\_December\\_20.pdf](https://birdlife.org.au/documents/Powl_December_20.pdf)