

29th April 2020.

Owners: Seumas Tan and Jennifer Lim

Property / Home address: 2 James Street, Chatswood, NSW 2067

Chatswood Education Precinct

Application number: SSD-9483

Political donations in last two (2) years: Nil

Re: Objection to the Proposed Development of Chatswood Public School (CPS)

We have been living in the above Property for nearly 10 years with our children practically spending half of their lives growing up next door to CPS. Therefore, being the immediate neighbours of CPS, we are deeply concerned and disturbed with proposed development of CPS. The two (2) main issues that we are very worried about are our safety and security. Based on these two (2) main issues, we are objecting to the proposed development of CPS and our grounds of objection are as follows:

1. **Relating to Safety**

(i) *The vulnerability of the retention wall separating our Property and CPS and the risk of the wall collapsing*

You may not be aware but sometime in early 2015, our Property was damaged by water gushing out from the cracks / cavities in the retention wall separating CPS and our Property. The gushing water caused a small flood in our garden. The source of the water came from CPS which is located on a much higher ground than our Property. Fearing for our safety, we met Mr. Timothy Dodds who was the then Principal of CPS, Mr. Terry McKinnon (the then Deputy Principal) and Mr. Max Wilkinson who at that time was the Asset Service Officer from the Department of Education's Asset Management Unit. A number of discussions were carried out over a period of time and among the things that were discussed was about the vulnerability of the retention walls which we have described to Mr. Dodds and Mr. Wilkinson as a "water dam that is about ready to burst". We received an email from Mr. Wilkinson on 6th July 2015 informing us that "the cracks are an on-going issue throughout the school and will be attended to under an engineer's instruction". Since

receiving that email, we have not seen any noticeable work that have been done to the cracks on the retention wall. With the proposed development of CPS, we fear that if the development should go ahead, the cracks will get even bigger and whether the walls would collapse when the new structure is being erected or in place. We are very worried that our safety will be threatened. Below are some photos showing the cracks on the wall and the water gushing out from the cracks causing a small flood:



(ii) *Projectiles (eg: soccer balls, basketballs, tennis balls, empty cans, rocks, etc) from CPS will increase*

When living next door to a school, it is expected that we will receive some projectiles from the school. However, in recent times, we noticed that this has becoming more frequent and the projectiles are no longer just confined to balls but also include small rocks and empty cans. The projectiles would normally land either on our garden or on the roof and in the process sometimes chipping of part of our roof tiles and damaging the external timber of our Property. There were on some occasions where the projectiles hit our car causing some minor dents in the process. We are aware that there would be some risks involved with regard to the projectiles when we moved into our house but with the proposed new development of CPS and the expected increase in the population of students and staff, these risks would increase significantly. We are worried that with the increase in the school population, there may come a time where such projectiles may cause injuries or harm to one of us or perhaps even to an innocent bystander. Therefore, it is essential that we now give notice to the Department of Education that such an undesired event may happen and

urge that the Department consider and take all safety precautions as ultimately we believe the responsibility would be with the Department.

(iii) Traffic condition and safety of pedestrians on James Street

As you may be aware, James Street (especially the street with the houses having even numbers such as Nos. 2, 4, 6, etc) is very narrow. When parents or guardians are either sending or picking up their children from CPS, many of them would park their vehicles on the narrow James Street. With the increase in the student population, it is likely that the number of vehicles parked along James Street would increase as well. With the increase of traffic on James Street, this would pose a major risk to pedestrians especially to children and this would also cause heavy traffic condition on what is already a rather narrow street even narrower.

2. Relating to Security

(i) Privacy

We have noted that in the proposed development of CPS, there will be a seven (7) storey structure that will be erected. With the erection of such a tall structure, our privacy will be threatened and thus, causing our personal life to be affected. We are afraid that this may affect the mental health of one of our children who is already seeking help in dealing with anxiety issues. We are afraid that this may aggravate the problem even further.

(ii) The likelihood of increased in "trespass to land"

We have on a number of occasions had people, especially students from CPS, coming to retrieve the balls that have landed in our garden. More often than not, they have asked for permission but there were also a number of occasions where we have found people entering into our Property without approval for what we assumed would be to retrieve the balls. The reason we came to know of their presence in our Property was due to the security camera we have installed in our Property. We are afraid that with the growing school population, there will be more occasions where people will be coming to our Property for that purpose and what is worrying is that they may enter into our Property without approval, thus creating "trespass to land".

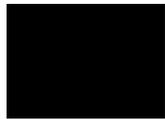
We hope that you will understand and appreciate our grounds of objection in relation to the proposed development of CPS which is very worrying to us. While we can understand and appreciate that CPS will need to expand its infrastructure to accommodate the growing number of students but is there any other way that you can do that without erecting new structures in an already very crowded and dense space? We hope to be able to continue to co-exist harmoniously and peacefully with the CPS community and able to find a mutually acceptable solution.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,



Seumas Tan



Jennifer Lim