

Will's objection

Response to:

Upgrades to Carlingford West Public School and Cumberland High School (SSD- 43065987)

Statement of Objection:

This is an **OBJECTION** to the **Carlingford West Public School and Cumberland High School (SSD- 43065987)** proposal.

Reasons for Objection:

I am an ex-student of Carlingford West Public School (CWPS). I enjoyed my time at CWPS and was fortunate enough to live on the West boundary of the school. Many enduring friendships were formed by myself at CWPS and the educational opportunities I received there set me up for success in my high school and tertiary educational journey.

Firstly I question the need for the size and proposed student numbers provided. I know from personal experience that at least 60% of the student population at CWPS are "out of area" students. Organising playdates was always tricky as friends would live as far away as Penrith or Merrylands. They had rented property within the area short term to gain access to CWPS. There was/is not adequate annual residential check on students to limit the school population to current "in area" students. The high number of people engaged in this practice was publicly stated by politician Geoff Lee at a local community gathering earlier in 2022.

So I question the predicted student numbers provided.

Residential surrounds

The school community and local community have always been able to live in harmony. As the school encroached closer to our back-fence there was never any issues as the buildings were kept in harmony with the local residential surrounds. The buildings that were installed closer to our boundary over the past 13 years were kept at a reasonable distance away and were single story buildings.

Shadows

The proposed buildings in the current development plan that will have clear view of my family's backyard, are three levels high (not sympathetic with residential surrounds at all). They will cast a shadow into our recreational space during winter that is substantial (as identified in the report by the developers).

Privacy

The windows from this three level building will place my bedroom window, our spa, the family room and outdoor living area in view of all of the students in that building. This is an unacceptable invasion of our privacy.

Traffic congestion

As an ex student, I know that most of my friends lived out of area and as a result were dropped to school and picked up each day. The increase in student numbers is only going to make this situation worse.

Staff parking

Increased numbers also means increased staff which will require additional on-site parking. The plans provided indicate that there is not adequate parking planned for the increase in staff. The suggestion is that teachers local to the area will walk, ride or use public transport.

There are a number of issues with this plan:

- 1) Teachers transport books, marking, laptops etc to and from school each day (part of the reason we can't get teachers!) – unfeasible when walking or riding and difficult on public transport
- 2) Most teachers would have use Pennant Hills road as part of their transport to school. Riding a bike along Pennant Hills Road laden with marking, books, laptops and lunch is not for the faint-hearted and I doubt a very attractive transport option for all but a few teachers.
- 3) Public transport to CWPS- my teenage years (pre being a licensed driver) were spent navigating the lack of public transport in our local area. Even if public transport is used, teachers-students are still required to walk carrying equipment a considerable distance.

If the proposed modes of transport are infeasible for teachers, they have no option but to drive. With limited parking available this forces them to park in surrounding streets.

I'm not sure who did the street parking audit report but you cannot have two cars parked on either side of the street without creating one way traffic flow. This is even worse when the cars are SUV style vehicle (very common), if they are parked on each side you cannot even drive one way without hitting side mirrors.

Traffic congestion

Now I'm going to tell you about the current reality of getting in and out of our house at school dismissal time.

This is so bad my parents have forbidden myself and my brother (another player) from leaving our home or returning between 2:30pm and 3:45pm in the afternoon. There is no way we can get into our driveway without breaking a number of traffic laws because we are forced to drive on the wrong side of the road or around cars that are double parked waiting for their children. There are cars parked on the corner of streets at a 45 degree angle forcing you to drive around them while not being able to see if anything is coming the other way.

There are often small children who emerge from between a parked car and one double parked to cross the road and as the driver of the moving car you cannot see them coming. Arrival at this time will also often require reversing a substantial distance between two parked cars while watching for pedestrians (a very stressful situation even for an experienced driver). Both my brother and myself are fortunate enough to have reverse cameras installed in our

cars, but this is a very traumatic experience, particularly if another driver comes up behind you unaware of the situation ahead.

I agree with my parents that the risk of trying to navigate our local streets at this time as an inexperienced driver is just not worth the trauma that would ensue from a car accident or possibly hitting a pedestrian and causing injury or worse. It is also not worth the argument required to move the people who have parked in our driveway waiting for their child.

The traffic flow proposal for the development will not be adequate to solve the current traffic crisis let alone deal with the increased student numbers. There are no marked crossing at all which means people cross the road where-ever creating an insane safety issues for both pedestrians and drivers.

Expecting a local residential road to cope with the current volume of traffic is insane and unsympathetic to local residents. This situation is only set to get worse.

Other options

There are many questionable issues with the current proposal, least to say that there are a number of surrounding schools with dwindling numbers which could easily accommodate increased student numbers without requiring the waste of money to tear down and rebuild a perfectly good school.

Loss of property value

It would be sad if my parents had to sell and leave the area as the residential lifestyle that had moved here for was over shadowed by a "high-rise" building and all of the associated traffic implications. The value of my parents property is also going to be seriously impacted (loss of \$150,000 -\$200,000) because who wants a home in full view of 1650 students???

I do hope that you are able to hear the lived-experience of the local community and chose to respond appropriately.