

Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure  
Via Portal

29 March 2025

Re: **SSD-73603959- UPA Wahroonga Seniors Housing**

**Objection to Proposed Truck Route due to Public Safety Concerns and Inevitable Worsened Traffic, Concerns about Parking due to Lack of On-site Parking for Construction/Project Staff**

Dear Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure Team,

I am writing in relation to this DA to object to the proposed truck route exiting the construction site due to concerns about public safety and the inevitable worsened traffic and parking in Ada Avenue, Munderah Street and the Pacific Highway end of Coonanbarra Road Wahroonga. The DA appears to have no parking set aside on-site for construction/project staff. These are significant concerns given that the expected duration of the building project is approximately 4 years and the construction vehicles will be travelling a minimum of 6 days per week along the proposed route involving Munderah Street, Ada Avenue and then turning left or right onto the Pacific Highway.

I have strong ties to Wahroonga. I was born and raised in Wahroonga, and then raised my own family in Wahroonga where they also attended school. My close family have lived in Wahroonga for almost 60 years. Although, I recently moved from Wahroonga, I am a frequent visitor due to visiting family and using medical and pet services in Wahroonga.

I am very familiar with the existing busy traffic and parking difficulties on Ada Avenue, Munderah Street, Coonanbarra Avenue (Highway end) and the Pacific Highway Wahroonga, and the existing difficulty travelling to and from the Highway and Coonanbarra Road to Ada Avenue and Munderah Street.

**The Da's proposed truck route for exiting the construction site is impractical and will cause major inconvenience, frustration and delays for the public as well as the project's construction and related staff.**

The current DA indicates that the travel route from the construction site for construction vehicles including large trucks will be to exit via 5 Munderah Street, then right into Ada Avenue (Northbound) and turn left or right onto Pacific Highway. Construction related vehicles especially trucks turning left and right from Ada Avenue onto the Pacific Highway will slow down the already busy area. It will slow down and prevent cars travelling in multiple directions:

- 1) from Coonanbarra Road across the Pacific Highway to Ada Ave,
- 2) from Ada Avenue across the Pacific Highway to Coonanbarra Road,
- 3) from Ada Avenue to turn left onto the Pacific Highway,
- 4) from Ada Avenue to turn right onto the Pacific Highway,
- 5) from Coonanbarra Road to turn left onto Pacific Highway and
- 6) from Coonanbarra Road turn right onto Pacific Highway

A build up of traffic will occur along Coonanbarra Road and cars will be banked up in the Wahroonga Village shopping area. This already occurs at peak travel times. Parents/Carers driving to and from Abbotsleigh Junior School (Woonona Ave Wahroonga) on the Wahroonga Village side of the Highway will be adversely affected. It will be difficult for shoppers trying to park in the Village and make it harder for Wahroonga small business as some shoppers may end up choosing to shop elsewhere.

The proposed truck travel route will also cause a bank up of cars in Ada Avenue which is the major access point for Abbotsleigh Senior School. At peak travel times, especially in the morning and afternoon, these areas are already a bottleneck. It will be very difficult for parents and carers dropping off and collecting children from Abbotsleigh Senior and Junior school campuses and delay their time in doing so.

**The proposed truck route for the project is a significant public safety risk to children and adults**

I hold a Master of Public Health, and worked in acute care services and public health for many years at both local and State levels and I am very concerned about the public's safety with the expected large number of construction vehicles such as trucks and construction staff's personal vehicles which will travel along Munderah Street and Ada Avenue and then turn left or right onto Pacific Highway for this building project. With 6 new buildings being built as part of this project, a large number of trucks would be required to deliver materials to the site.

I am concerned for my elderly mother who drives one or two times per day from Ada Avenue and across the highway to Coonanbarra Road (and return) to access Wahroonga Village shops, cafes and services. I have safety concerns especially due to large trucks using Ada Avenue and I am certain the large trucks will make her very vulnerable in her small car. This could prevent her from driving and reduce her independence. She needs to drive to the Wahroonga Village as her home in Wahroonga is too far to walk from and she does not do internet shopping. She also attends appointments and socialises in the Wahroonga Village.

I am also concerned that Abbotsleigh school with major access points in Ada Avenue is located in the area of the proposed truck route. There are at least 900 students at Abbotsleigh senior school and several hundred teaching and support staff as well as ground and facility maintenance staff.

Not only is it a safety concern for the students and staff of the school but also the many other members of the public who are children and adults who utilise the Abbotsleigh Aquatic Centre which is directly accessed via Ada Avenue. The fact that the trucks will drive along Ada Avenue from Monday to Saturday inclusive and potentially on Sundays is very concerning. Throughout the day on a Saturday it is busy at the school with people constantly coming and going due to school sport and the Aquatic Centre. In fact, the Abbotsleigh Aquatic Centre is open 7 days per week.

Some parents/carers may not be able to park at all near Abbotsleigh which is likely to result in children opening car doors and getting out of the car themselves on a road and perhaps in the middle of a build up of traffic in an effort to not be late for school, sport or a lesson/training at the Aquatic Centre. This may result in injuries or fatalities.

With the trucks turning right from Ada Avenue across Pacific Highway there is a potential for accidents to occur with vehicles and pedestrians as this is a busy major intersection. There are pedestrians who cross the Pacific Highway from the pedestrian crossing in front of the Shell Petrol Station (1601 Pacific Highway Wahroonga) or from the other side and do not use the overhead bridge which is further away near Abbotsleigh. These pedestrians include adults and children such as students from nearby Knox Grammar and other schools.

### **Parking Concerns**

The DA seems to indicate that there will be no on-site parking set aside for construction staff. This will result in construction staff using Ada Avenue, Munderah Street and surrounding streets to park for many hours of each construction work day. It is unlikely that all construction workers will car pool or get public transport to travel to and from the site.

There is already a lack of parking along Ada Avenue and Munderah Street. This will get worse with construction staff parking on these streets. This will create problems for local residents and their visitors, Abbotsleigh school's parents/carers and staff and visitors to Abbotsleigh. It is likely to make parking difficult for Abbotsleigh parents dropping off and collecting children for school during the weekdays and for school sport on a Saturday and potentially 7 days per week for the Aquatic Centre. It will also affect the parents/carers of children who attend other schools who drop off and collect children for Saturday competition school sport at Abbotsleigh or for lessons or training at the Abbotsleigh Aquatic Centre for 7 days per week. Many parents/carers stay to watch Saturday school sport and Aquatic Centre classes/training so require parking for a longer duration than what dropping off and collecting children requires.

### **Suggestions:**

- An alternate truck route should be used for this project for trucks exiting the site. Trucks should not be exiting via Munderah Street (westbound) nor Ada Avenue nor turning onto Pacific Highway from Ada Avenue.
- Trucks could use the driveway on the site designated as the “emergency access driveway” in the DA instead of the proposed truck routes. I understand that a local group of residents commissioned a traffic engineer who inspected the site in person and has written a report stating that this option is feasible and the best option to ensure public safety.
- All construction personnel should be informed not to use Ada Avenue to travel to or from the construction site and not to park on Ada Avenue or Munderah Street due to traffic, parking and public safety concerns.
- This project should utilise on -site parking for the construction related staff to prevent traffic build up, prevent loss of parking for local residents, Abbotsleigh parents and staff, and visitors to Abbotsleigh school and the Abbotsleigh Aquatic Centre.

Thank you for considering the above.

Yours sincerely