

Loreto Normanhurst School Development Concept Proposal and Stage 1

Application No SSD-8996

91-93 Pennant Hills Road Normanhurst

Applicant: Loreto Normanhurst Limited

Council Area Hornsby Shire

Consent Authority Minister for Planning and Public spaces

Resident Submission

I object to three aspects of the project

1. Traffic
- 2 Bushfire risk
- 3 Increase in student numbers

I also wish to comment on the very poor communication of this project to local residents. On December 5th 2019 we received a letter dated 3rd December 2019 informing us of this proposed development. The letter noted that we were inadvertently not notified about the proposal during the exhibition of the dates between Friday 28 June and Thursday 25 July. We now had an opportunity to comment on the EIS between Monday 9 December 2019 and Friday 31 January 202.

This letter did not acknowledge that the indicated documents probably totalled in excess of 1000 pages which had to be read, analysed, reviewed and then an attempt made for a valid comment. Residents in the 5 feeder streets off Osborn Road received no communication.

I cannot but wonder if our omission was not a deliberate attempt to disenfranchise us.

There are a number of major concerns.

Traffic

We have already attempted to have traffic recognised as a major problem with the application for and Early Learning Centre in Mt Pleasant Ave. This has involved two public meetings with Hornsby Council and the Development has been allowed.

I cannot see that further negotiation will have a changed outcome.

I do not feel that any outside body has any interest or awareness of the problems residents in Osborn Rd and its 5 feeder streets, deal with on a regular basis.

The traffic report that Ason presented was quite insulting.

Loreto is bounded on 2 sides by suburban "no through roads". Mt Pleasant Ave ends at a Retirement Village and Nursing Home. The southern side is bush.

Osborn Road on the west is the only outlet to Pennant Hills Road for 5 feeder streets.

The front of the school is on Pennant Hills Road.

Osborn Road already experiences considerably delays trying to enter and exit the street.

This is lived experience which is contrary to the “Drone” evidence produced by Ason. This was collected on three successive days when one day was a pupil free day and on the other 2 days Years 11 and 12 were absent and it seems highly likely that some of Year 10 were absent at a camp.

EIS 3.5 Open Space and landscaping states that

“car park access, buses and trucks to be kept to the periphery of the site along Osborn Road and Mt Pleasant Ave.

It seems that the main carpark will be under the oval and that then presumes that access will be a single car entrance from Osborn Road. This will generate even more queuing and congestion.

Why not use the Pennant Hills Road frontage for school access.

Parking in Osborn Road is already at a premium and perhaps

“Residents only Parking” should be a considered option.

Bush fires

Since the EIS was released we have had major bushfires across NSW.

The common phrases used to describe the situation have been

‘unprecedented’, “catastrophic”

"I didn't think it would happen to us"

"It came so quickly"

The bush fire report in the EIS is dated 10 January 2019 and is thus twelve months old.

No Emergency and Evacuation Plans are formulated in the Bushfire Protection Assessment.

This is still to be done by Loreto.

According to Hornsby Bushfire Prone Land Management 2014 Sheet 018, we live in an area identified as a Bush fire prone area and this is reflected in our insurance policies.

Six years have passed since this assessment and all current ideas indicate that bushfire danger will only increase.

Loreto was closed on 12th November 2019, a day identified as a day of Catastrophic danger.

If a bush fire comes roaring up the Lane Cove Valley how do 2000 students from Loreto, residents from the Adventist Retirement Village and Nursing Home and Mt Pleasant residents flee Mt Pleasant Ave. What hope will residents of Osborn Rd and its five feeder streets have to escape onto Pennant Hill Rd.

Emergency vehicles will be unable to enter the streets. The traffic will resemble the scenes we saw of people trying to leave the South Coast of NSW.

Student Numbers

The expansion of student numbers at Loreto to 2000 students, is an increase of 75%. Previous applications in the time of Principal Sr Denise Desmarchelier (circa 1990), limited student numbers to approximately 990.

Why has this been limit been allowed to change?

I wish to object to the proposed development.

I do not believe that the expansion of Loreto should be allowed to proceed as the lives of many people could be in danger.

Local streets cannot handle any more traffic.

The planned growth will make it almost impossible in an emergency.

Helen Nancarrow

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Normanhurst 2076

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