

30th January, 2020

Re: State Significant Development Application for Loreto Normanhurst

Dear Jasmine Tranquille,

We are writing about the State Significant Development Application currently under consideration for Loreto Normanhurst. If successful, this application would enable the school to undertake renovations and increase its intake from 1,250 to 2,000 students.

We write as local residents and concerned parents with young children at Normanhurst Public School. We are very concerned about the consequences that this development proposed by Loreto Normanhurst is very likely to have on congestion on Osbourne Rd and our local community more generally.

Our concern is that traffic conditions are already poor on Osborn Rd during the hours that school zones operate, particularly in the afternoon at the end of the school day.

Loreto Normanhurst has a private roadway that buses and parents use to pick up children. Traffic often overflows from this driveway onto Osborn Rd in the afternoons (shortly after three o'clock), blocking traffic turning off and onto Pennant Hills road, creating chaos. There is also inadequate space for cars to turn around safely and insufficient parking to accommodate the current volume of traffic.

This problem also affects side roads that lead off Osborn Rd. Unfortunately, Currawong road is quite narrow and can be difficult to drive through safely in the afternoon, due to parked cars and large SUVs performing three point turns.

We are concerned that the proposal to increase student numbers to 2,000 will exacerbate traffic congestion and put public safety at risk.

First, the safety of pedestrians – especially young children and their carers – would be put at risk by low visibility from the combination of increased traffic congestion, the high number of parked cars, and cars turning around during school zones. With Normanhurst Public School directly opposite Loreto on Pennant Hills Road, and many children walking to and from school over the pedestrian bridge, this risk is pronounced during school zones.

Second, the safety of drivers is put at risk due to increased traffic on roads not designed for increased capacity. This risk would apply cars queueing on Osbourne road, as several properties on Osborn road have long and/or steep driveways that lower visibility. This risk would also apply to cars entering the Osborn Rd/Normanhurst Rd/Pennant Hills road intersection.

Third, the safety of residents is put at risk if traffic congestion and parked cars hinders the access of emergency vehicles during school zones.

Thanks for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Adam and Savita Stebbing

(Residents at [REDACTED] Normanhurst NSW 2076)