

I must firstly say I am very pleased we are going to have a new and modern high school to be built in Ballina. However, after studying the plans online, and chatting with people exhibiting the plans at Ballina Fair in December, I am concerned about a several issues which I wish to comment on:

LACK OF PARKING FOR THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL AND TRAFFIC CONGESTION.

My biggest concern with this high school redevelopment is the lack of onsite car parking for teaching staff, ancillary staff or students. My understanding is that plans the previous teachers' car park will be demolished. The estimated total daily attendance at the new school is 1,000 students, 73 staff and 19 ancillary staff. This does not include parents or other visitors, or consider those attending sporting or other school events.

I estimate there will be a minimum of 120 extra car spaces needed adjacent to and in surrounding streets of the new school every school day. This will affect traffic congestion and parking. **As the main entry for the high school is on the corner of Cherry and Swift Streets, properties in Cherry Street, Burnet Street, Swift Street and Borton Street will be greatly impacted.** (The streets I refer in this document are the sections west of the school between Cherry and Moon Streets).

Parking spaces in Cherry Street and Burnet Street at present are regularly occupied by people attending the Cherry Street Sports Club and the Tennis Club, and on school days the overflow from the small teachers' car park, year 11 and 12 students and school visitors fill any remaining parking space. Increased competition for parking will also affect people attending community activities at the Masonic Hall and the Uniting Church Hall, funeral attendees at the churches in Cherry Street, staff and parents from St Francis School, and smaller businesses in Cherry Street and their customers.

As we have lived in Burnet St Ballina for over 12 years I have sound local knowledge of this neighbourhood and note that there is no parking available on many of the High school boundaries, such as Bentinck Street, in front of the school in Swift Street (due to school bus access bays), and it seems likely that there will be timed parking in parts of Cherry Street as they are labelled 'Visitor's and Disabled parking drop off'. On the south side of Swift Street is another busy school entrance used primarily by the families and teachers of the younger children of St Francis Primary School, which is another nearby street where parking congestion will increase when the new high school opens.

I live in a house in Burnet Street, [REDACTED], and on some days when my elderly mother comes to visit she cannot find a parking space and has to walk a few hundred metres to our house. This was the situation in 2016; so I dread to imagine what it will be like in 2020 when there will be no onsite parking and the school attendees is possibly doubled.

I am sure the teachers at the new school would be in disbelief to know that onsite parking has not been considered for them. They are the backbone of the school.

I WISH TO PROPOSE SEVERAL WAYS TO REDUCE TRAFFIC CONGESTION TO ADDRESS PARKING PROBLEMS:

1. Construct a staff car park off Martin Street, (possibly for 50 cars) in the area of the currently derelict basketball courts and cricket nets

The outdoor basketball courts and cricket nets are in a state of disrepair, and expensive restoration or removal will be required in the future. Relocation of these facilities would be a better option. I expect the outdoor courts will no longer be required anymore as the new Ballina indoor sports centre will accommodate these. A tastefully designed and landscaped car park could be built to blend in with the new buildings.

2. Require High School students and staff to use Martin Street for parking.

Martin Street has much less traffic flow and there are no businesses in that street. A covered walkway into the back entry of the school buildings would be ideal for all weather access to the school ground.

3. Construct traffic lights or a roundabout at the intersection of Swift and Cherry Streets.

Cherry Street already has a very high volume of traffic as it is a main thoroughfare through to the CBD. This extra traffic also causes more safety issues for children attending the three nearby schools when they are crossing these busy streets.

4. Resurface all streets (to the west of Cherry Street for one block only) that surround the new development with proper 'low noise' bitumen sealed roads and bitumen sealed parking spaces, and resurface Burnet Street.

The quality of our roads is already very poor and will continue to deteriorate with an increase in traffic. This especially applies to the road surface of Burnet Street. We live [REDACTED] from Cherry Street and since they resurfaced it a few years ago with very basic bitumen the traffic noise has greatly increased. I expect the new school classrooms will also be subject to this noise.

5. Improve drainage away from the school, and in the surrounding streets, to cope with the runoff created by the raised foundations of the school.

I understand the high school site has to be built up to council specifications in regard to the possible sea water inundation of this part of Ballina so I am also concerned about the drainage from the school site. When we have lots of rain the drainage along Cherry Street and Moon Street is very poor and the water cannot escape. It floods the roads, the fields and the kerb gutters. Please find a photo attached.

6. Retain existing trees along Cherry Street, Bentinck Street and Martin Street and suitable trees, that suit our climate, be planted for wildlife and protection for our children.

A very large number of birds and some wildlife live and nest in the surrounding trees.

7. Retain the old teachers' car park while the building is under construction as there will be a very large number of tradesmen working on this project.

The demolition/building stage of the new high school is going to be a busy and noisy time in the neighbourhood, but I am also concerned about the parking when the construction teams arrive.



Corner of Cherry & Burnet Street after a heavy downpour. Very poor drainage.



Residential, Tennis Club visitors, school kids and teachers parking in Burnet Street, on an average week day 2016. Already a busy street....before the construction of the new high school.

I understand some of the issues listed above are not entirely state government problems; but for the best possible outcome for the community a close liaison with the Ballina Council is an absolute must, especially in relation to drainage problems and student/traffic safety.