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Planning Services  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
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Normanhurst  
7 March 2021

**Attention: Director - Social and Other Infrastructure Assessments**

Dear Ms Coomar,

**LORETO NORMANHURST SCHOOL REDEVELOPMENT (CONCEPT PROPOSAL AND  
STAGE 1), 91-93 PENNANT HILLS ROAD NORMANHURST (SSD-8996) - OBJECTION**

Declaration - I have not made a political donation in the last two years.

I write this email in response to SSD-8996.

**I write to object to proposal SSD-8996 in the strongest possible terms.**

I am a long-term resident of Mount Pleasant Avenue.

Loreto's previous expansions have dramatically impacted the local streets, in particular the expansion of Year 5 & 6.



Please notice only one car can traverse when cars are parked on both sides of this section of Mount Pleasant Avenue.

It was immediately evident Year 5 & 6 teachers were parking on Mount Pleasant Avenue for easy access to classrooms rather than using the school parking spaces.

The pictures below highlight the Loreto parking option (along Pennant Hills Road) for teachers and students however, it is not utilised. Rather, staff and students park on Mount Pleasant Avenue, a continued frustration for residents.



Please note, when students, teachers and parents park on the street verge or along the curb on Mount Pleasant Avenue only one car can traverse the road. This often occurs for more than 200 meters due to the number of cars parking on the street rather than using school parking.



The pictures to the right demonstrates limited accessibility for residents and the continuing problem of a one-way road. This is a very common scenario and a danger the elderly residents at the aged care home in the event of an emergency/ambulance.



Please note the impact cars parking 'legally' has on traffic flow, increases danger and accessibility. Please notice the inaccessibility issues presented in these pictures and the deep concern

Mount Pleasant Avenue residents have with the proposed traffic flow plans Loreto has presented.

These pictures to the right and below indicate the issues residents and visitors to Mount Pleasant Avenue are faced with on a daily basis when entering or exiting the street.



In the pictures below please note the cars parked (legally and illegally) on the right hand side, and how the white car entering Mount Pleasant Avenue is unable to access the street due to parked cars.







The pictures to the right highlight the same parking challenges/entering Mount Pleasant Avenue - this time the picture also highlights the disrespect Loreto has for Mount Pleasant Avenue residents with a dedicated 'Loreto branded school bus' driving on Mount Pleasant Avenue when the school has dedicated bus bay provision accessed from Osborn Road.

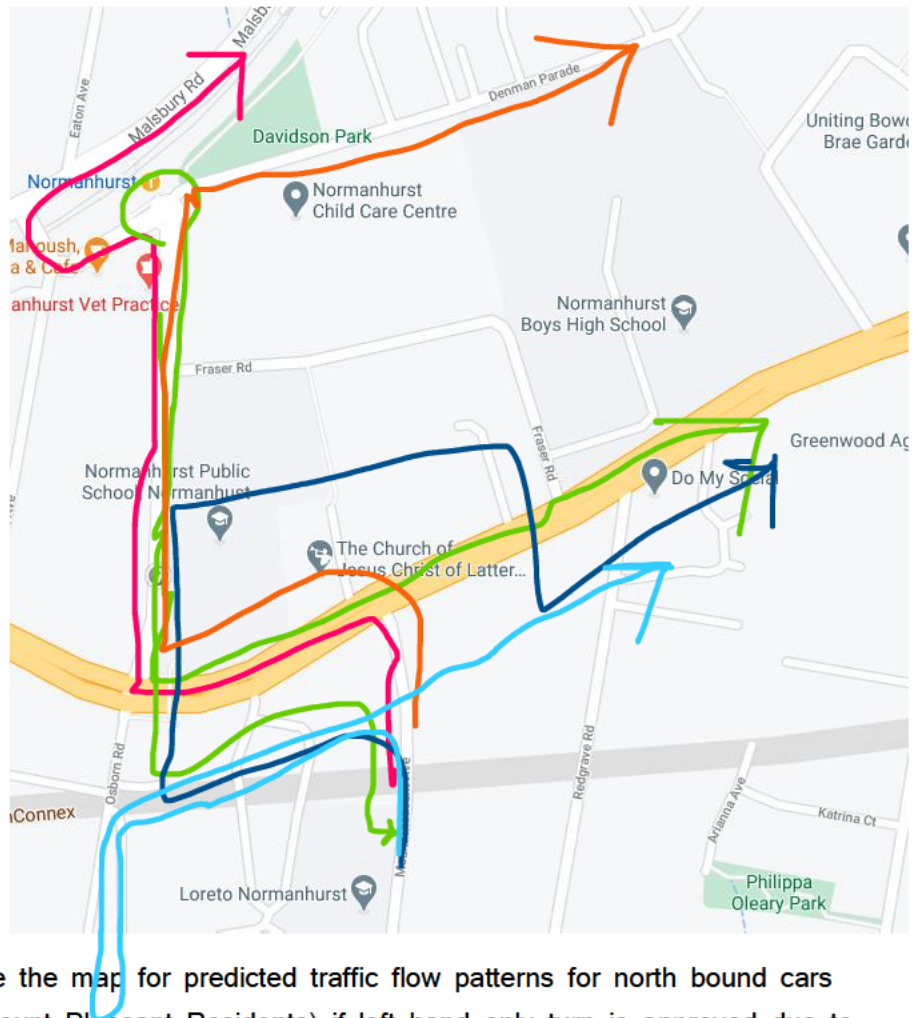
See pictures highlighting the issues with exiting Mount Pleasant Avenue. This is Loreto's proposed school drop off & exit route/plan. This situation causes utter chaos. It is important to note that Loreto proposes a left only turn at the intersection.



If approval for Loreto's requested left hand only exit turn from Mount Pleasant Avenue is given, local area residents and two public schools will be severely impacted by the increase in heavy traffic from parents requiring to complete their journey to a northerly suburb destination.

Note: all four journeys require left hand turn from Mount Pleasant Avenue, immediate 3 lane change over 3 lanes (within 75 mts) for right turn onto Normanhurst Road, then proceeding past Normanhurst Public School (Primary).

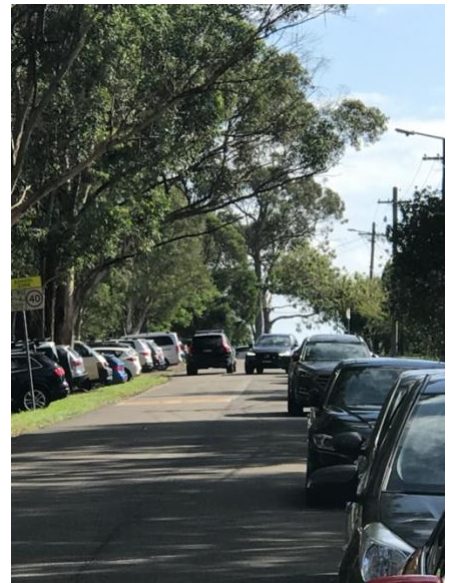
Normanhurst Public School (Primary) services the local community. These students and carers will be severely impacted by the increase level of traffic, increased danger, and a dramatic increase in traffic flow. Please see the map for predicted traffic flow patterns for north bound cars for Loreto parents (and Mount Pleasant Residents) if left hand only turn is approved due to Loreto's expansion plans.



The light blue route requires re-entry into Osborn Road, turning in the cul-de-sac then right turn at Pennant Hills/Osborn Road intersection to head in a northerly direction.

The pictures below demonstrate how teacher/parent/student parking along the curb and along the Loreto fence line impact traversing Mount Pleasant Avenue. This is a very dangerous situation: note how the black SUV is reversing into oncoming traffic - there is zero visibility, also note how only one car can traverse Mount Pleasant Avenue (often cars are unable to pass for hundreds of meters as there is no space/drive ways to pull to the side!). This is a danger and a cause of constant frustration and concern.





These pictures are taken from my car as I am reversing out my driveway (as is my legal right). Please note I have **zero visibility**, and I am in a **huge SUV!** What happens when a car driving down the road smashes into my car? I have already had one accident with a Loreto staff member.



You may say, get over it! It only happens 5 days a week. You are wrong. These pictures are **taken on a Saturday morning/afternoon**. The road is filled with Loreto parents and staff (the school has made no provision for such events). The parking issues begin before 8am and continue until 4pm. It should also be noted parents/children using the swimming facilities are also contributing to the parking issues. Parents show complete disregard and lack of respect by blocking access to my driveway, this is unacceptable.

Please note Mount Pleasant Avenue is a 'no through road' residents have no alternate route to exit the street. Residents are severely impacted by Loreto staff, students (p platers) and parents parking on the street during school hours and during Saturday sport. Loreto has not made plans to alleviate this issue (as noted with staff/student car parks that remain half empty on a daily basis).

Note: space for one care only to traverse Mount Pleasant Avenue.

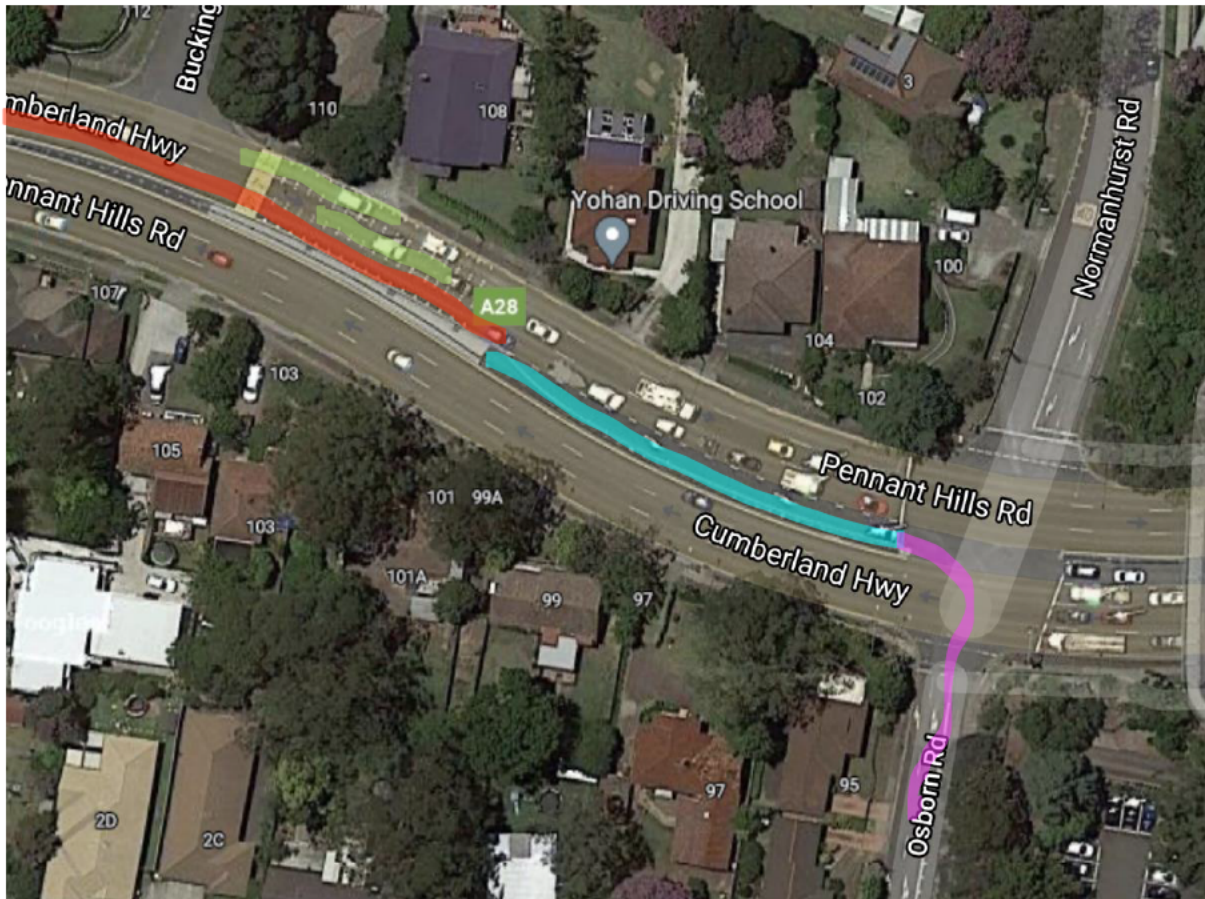


These diagrams will demonstrate the challenges people living/traversing Pennant Hills road have to navigate on a daily basis due to Loreto Parents dropping students at school in preference to

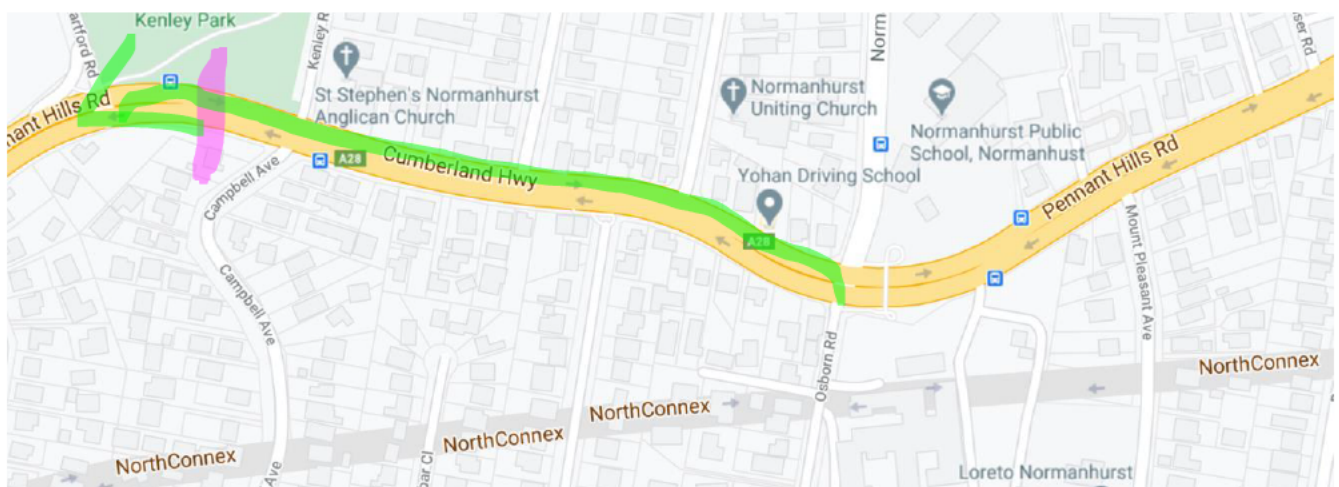


walking/ public/school dedicated transport.

Each morning and afternoon Loreto parent traffic continually banks back on Pennant Hills Road (see teal highlighter) it regularly banks back stopping traffic from in lane three (see red highlighter), leaving two north bound lanes open on Pennant Hills Road. Traffic is



regularly banked back to the NorthConnex (Map 2, purple highlighter) truck monitoring station (Map 2, green highlighter).





Please find below pictures of an ambulance navigating Mount Pleasant Avenue with cars hindering access to the home due to parked cars. Notice how the first picture demonstrates lack of turning space for the ambulance due to parked cars. Also, notice space for one car to pass!

It is important to highlight ambulances traverse Mount Pleasant Avenue on a regular basis in order to support patient care, this is due to the:

- Disability Care Home at 51 Mount Pleasant Avenue and
- Adventist Aged Care - retirement village, nursing home, dementia ward/respite facilities at 79 Mount Pleasant Avenue.



The following is research from both Australian Government and private researchers into Australian school traffic movements (a reference list is provided at the end of this letter).

1. Information from Australian Bureau of Statistics (2013): most Australian children are driven to school.

2. Information from Architectus: Heart Foundation (2018) - 1 out of 4 children walk/ride to school (4 decades ago 3 out of 4 walk/rode to school) - It is unlikely Loreto students will walk/ride to school as majority of students come from outside Normanhurst suburb area, thus students are more likely to be driven to school, impacting Mount Pleasant Avenue, Osborne Road and surrounding streets

3. Information from Van de Ploeg (2008) - Australian longitudinal study of student travel to school, 1971 - 2003, data from 2003:

- ✧ 5-9 yrs **66% driven to school in a car**

- ✧ 10-14 yrs **47.8% driven to school in a car**

**Compared with active travel around the world**

- ✧ 98% Japan

- ✧ 87% Netherlands

- ✧ 61% Finland

- ✧ 59% Demark

Loreto states students will use public/school transport, green 'walking buses from the station', in reality, this is not supported by research into how Australian students travel to school.

4. Information from South Australian Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (2016) - this study provides reasons why Australia parents choose to drive their children to school including:

- ✧ Keeping their child safe (however, the increased traffic from the proposed Loreto expansion will directly impact the safety of children at Normanhurst Public School and Normanhurst Boys High School)

- ✧ Age - parents with young children prefer to drive their children than use other modes of transport (again with the proposed expansion of Loreto, each new student in the long day care and Kindergarten- Year 4 will be driven to school)

- ✧ Socio-economic status - parents with high socio-economic status (eg, Loreto parents) are more likely to drive students to school

- ✧ Metropolitan living - parents living in metro areas are more likely to drive their children to school

5. Information from Hornsby Advocate (2015) - Pennant Hills Road is the 2<sup>nd</sup> worst road in New South Wales. The Loreto expansion will further exacerbate terrible traffic conditions as the school borders Pennant Hills Road and the increased traffic movements will directly impact the local area traffic and flow.



What does this research data mean:

- The 'car' is an Australian parents preferred method for student drop-off/pick-up
- If the expansion is approved for Kindergarten-Year 4, most of the children will be driven to school by a parent/carer - this will adversely impact residents of Osborn Road, Mount Pleasant Avenue, Pennant Hills Road, Normanhurst Road and all other surrounding streets. Loreto has not taken into account the impact the expansion would have on traffic, residential amenity, **mental health of residents (our personal travel movements would be restricted to times when Loreto parents would not be congesting Mount Pleasant Avenue and other local streets - this is not OK!)**
- If the expansion is approved, and with all Loreto parents exiting the school via Mount Pleasant Avenue (left hand only turn) **two public schools will be directly impacted by a huge increase in traffic movements putting their students at risk** of being killed by a Loreto parent car - this is completely unacceptable!
- The Loreto planning committee is in denial about how parents get their students to school
- The Loreto planning committee is in denial about the impact their proposed development will have on their good neighbours, many of whom have lived in the street for more than 20 years, with some longer than 50 years.

Please note that many street residents are elderly, as many live in the retirement village accommodation. Many of these residents do not have access to technology to write a formal complaint letter to object to this development. They have no opportunity to have their objections heard.

An important consideration for Loreto's traffic management plan is **how it will impact on the local area, in particular two local Public Schools, current street residents including those in aged care who at times require ambulance support.** Loreto's current plan is selfish with no consideration of others, caring about their own financial gain through expansion.

It is disappointing Loreto continues to demonstrate a complete lack of care and complete disregard for current traffic management (staff, 'p plate students, parents parking on the street each school day and Saturday Sport) and this is evidenced by the SSD-8996 plan. The plan shows the school does not understand the current traffic issues let alone the impact their expansion plans will have on the local streets and local area. Unfortunately, it is also evident Loreto is being a bully in this situation and using their financial might to squash the residents of Mount Pleasant Avenue, many of whom are retired and elderly, and do not have the funds to fight this development.



Mount Pleasant Avenue used to be a pleasant place to live, and the school a good neighbour however, a noticeable change has occurred since the expansion to Year 5 and 6. Traffic, parking and other issues have dramatically increased which indicate the disastrous problems the street will face should the developments be approved. We used to live on a lovely street however, the only day our street is calm is Sunday as demonstrated by this picture.

I request that my concerns; the traffic illustrations, parking pictures, and research be carefully considered with the same measured care you would display to Loreto's development submission.

I look forward to a response to this letter.

**As stated previously, I strongly object to the development plan Loreto has expressed with SSD-8996.**

- 1. I object to the link road from Osborn Road through Loreto school grounds onto Mount Pleasant Avenue**
- 2. I object to Loreto expecting Osborn and Mount Pleasant Avenue to bear all traffic, they have street access why are they not using it?**
- 3. I object to the Loreto plan that all Loreto visiting vehicles will exit from Loreto onto Mount Pleasant Avenue**
- 4. I object that Mount Pleasant Avenue be left hand turn only**



5. I object to the expansion of Kindergarten to Year 4
6. I object to the boarding house on Mount Pleasant Avenue. It is not in keeping with street architecture and is oversized
7. I object to the car park with courts built on top
8. I object to the planned substation that is required to power the school expansion
9. I object to this development plan
10. I object

Kind regards

Natalie Burzacott

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<https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/health-conditions-and-risks/australian-health-survey-physical-activity/latest-release#pedometer-steps>

Architectus: Heart Foundation. (2018). *Urban design study: Active travel to school*. Heart Foundation.  
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Garrard, J. 2016. Walking, Riding or driving to school: what influences parents' decision making? (Prepared for the South Australian Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.

Hornsby Advocate. (2015). *Worst road in NSW and the ACT in the NRMA's annual survey*. <https://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/the-hills/pennant-hills-rd-was-voted-the-second-worst-road-in-nsw-and-the-act-in-the-nrmas-annual-survey/news-story/54fc8bef300f87d03a108aa486ff165a>

van der Ploeg, H. P., Merom, D., Corpuz, G., & Bauman, A. E., 2008. Trends in Australian children traveling to school 1971-2003: Burning petrol or carbohydrates? *Preventive Medicine* 46(1): 60-62.