

Suzanne Shields

[REDACTED]

Normanhurst 2076

Loreto Normanhurst School Redevelopment (Concept Proposal and Stage 1) (SSD-8996)

I strongly object to application SSD-8996

I have lived at the above address for over [REDACTED] and happily co-existed with Loreto until the last few years. There has been a growing problem with traffic in local streets with each iteration of Loreto development and growth. If approved, SSD-8996 will exacerbate an existing significant problem and wilfully ignore local residents' concerns.

Part of Loreto's planned redevelopment includes increased parking at the school but this will not help the traffic situation in any way. The redevelopment also includes a no-through road and green travel plan but these will not take traffic off the local streets. It would, in fact, significantly add to the traffic. With the proposed expansion of enrolments, traffic congestion will become even worse and an already poor traffic situation will become dire.

It would be negligent for this application to be approved until the current problems with traffic have been successfully eliminated.

Loreto's sense of entitlement is quite overwhelming as the school simply does not appear to care about local residents. Osborn Road is not a private road belonging to Loreto. It is a narrow, local street (with five feeder streets) lived in by ratepayers. At school peak pick-up and drop-off times there is no way an emergency vehicle could quickly enter Osborn Road and attend to an emergency in either Osborn Road or the five feeder streets that have Osborn Road as their only way in or out.

The various traffic reports commissioned by Loreto try to demonstrate that the streets near the school currently work satisfactorily and can support the proposed development but the residents, with their lived experiences, know much better. Residents are angry with the peak school time traffic now and know it becomes a choked mess whenever there is a school event taking place eg every Saturday with sport traffic as well as various other school functions.

Some suggestions to help with the traffic problem could include:

1. not allowing buses in Osborn Road. Buses should drop students off at Pennant Hills Road. This is particularly viable now that North Connex has opened. There is an overbridge connecting one side of the road to the other and students would be completely safe. There is also room for a bus layby outside the school with only a relatively small amount of work required by Loreto to make it operational. I am aware that RMS has decreed traffic can no longer enter Loreto from Pennant Hills Road but that is a decision that could and should be easily reversed.
2. Parents/caregivers should only be allowed to pick up/drop off children at Loreto unless they have some sort of permit eg child with disability or very young child or

similar. Perhaps they should pay for the privilege of picking up/dropping off children? Most children should be arriving by Loreto bus or public transport. Loreto already has a bus fleet in operation picking up students and this bus program can be expanded to make it the foremost way students arrive and depart the school. Normanhurst train station is also near to the school as well as various public bus stops.

Creative thinking needs to be employed and I have yet to see any from the vast amount of documentation Loreto has produced. My two outlined suggestions are environmentally sound, workable and practical solutions unlike the 'greenwashing' and other suggestions that the Loreto redevelopment report contains.

I'd like to see Loreto commit to reducing the school traffic on local streets by 75% by the end of 2022. If they reach that goal that demonstrates their good faith and commitment to solving the traffic issue. Then, and only then, could SSD-8996 be looked at in a more positive light.