

Ms Aditi Coomar

Nicola Butler

Normanhurst NSW 2076

07.03.2021

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

I write to you to object to the proposal in the strongest possible terms.

Even at the current school size of 1,150 students, residents suffer unacceptable traffic chaos at drop-off and pick-up times, during school ceremonies, and during weekend sporting events. This traffic chaos impacts Osborn Road and its five feeder streets Currawong Avenue, Rivertop Close, Nepean Avenue, Wendy Avenue and Dunbar Close alike.

After reviewing the Loreto response to submissions, I noted the statements below¹ with greatest concern as they are completely unrealistic:

'A provision has been made within the concept plan for a future carpark providing up to 200 spaces located at the P3A carpark.' – 'The Osborn Road/Pennant Hills Road/Normanhurst Road intersection is shown to perform at an acceptable level of service in the concept plan post development model.'

The key points of my objection are:

- **More students = more car parks = more drop-offs / pickups = more traffic chaos –** Approving 433 car spaces and replacing the current 60 space Osborn Road main car park with a 200-space car park is beyond comprehension. No through-road, green travel plan or other solution will fix the resulting traffic chaos.
- **Increased queuing on Osborn Road and at traffic lights –** The amended travel plans for school traffic, which include more queue spaces for drop-off and pick-up, are totally inadequate to cope with even a fraction of the proposed increase. Already today, traffic nightmares and long traffic queues on Osborn Road are a regular occurrence. In addition, queues regularly form on Pennant Hills Road (PHR) where left- and right-hand turning traffic approaching Loreto forms queues due to the frequency of the traffic lights which impacts on the PHR traffic flow.
- **All school traffic, apart from Early Learning Centre traffic, to be funnelled into Osborn Road –** Doing so will inevitably cause a massive logjam of traffic in Osborn Road, with cars either

¹ Source: Taylor Thomson Whitting, Response to submissions, 4.3 Parking supply, p13 and 5.5 Trip distribution, p20

queuing to take the 'through road' or driving to the drop-off/ pick-up P3A carpark. There cannot possibly be any other outcome than traffic chaos despite the modelling and predictions. This is further compounded by the fact that according to NSW road rules legislation, right-hand turning traffic exiting from the P3A car park as well as from the slip road must give way to Osborn Road traffic.² Increasing pick-up and drop-off lanes will not alleviate this situation due to the increase in traffic movements generated by increased student intake.

I personally have a ● year old child at [REDACTED]. I would of course prefer to walk to school for the 3pm pick up and avoid the traffic, however as a business owner and a busy mother to a baby I often have to drive. There are always cars waiting to pull into the Osborn Road entrance to Loreto. This traffic then backs up at the traffic lights. It's incredibly dangerous if you can't see the queue and attempt to drive through the lights. I have personally been caught out driving from Normanhurst Road to Osborn road behind an SUV style car and not been able to see the queue, then been stuck out in the Pennant Hills Road traffic. This is incredibly scary with two young children in the car.

Neighbours of Loreto were sent a letter at the end of last year stating they would ensure parents did not sit in the road trying to get into the Osborn Road driveway, and encouraging green initiatives to reduce the traffic. I have not noticed a difference, nor ever seen a member of Staff from Loreto monitoring or directing the traffic on Osborn Road.

If this disruption to traffic is with the current level of students, I'm very concerned about the impact an increase in students will have.

In summary, I object to the Loreto Normanhurst amended proposal as the increased traffic would make it even more untenable for residents of Osborn Road and its five feeder streets as well as Mt Pleasant Avenue both of which are cul-de-sac roads.

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

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Butler

² Source: NSW legislation, Road Rules 2014, 73 Giving way at a T-intersection,
www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/whole/html/inforce/current/sl-2014-0758#sec.71