

9th November 2014

The NSW Department of Planning & Environment
Major Projects Assessments
Planning Service
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

RE: SSD 6339 St Catherine's School Campus Master Plan and Stage 1 development

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

We are very concerned residents, strongly objecting to the Masterplan DA and Stage 1 proposals lodged by St Catherine's School.

We are both educators who have worked both in NSW and WA in inner city schools surrounded by high-density living. As such, we are cognisant of the need and requirement for schools such as St Catherine's to offer the highest level of education within the curriculum and co-curriculum. A component of this offering is the provision of high quality facilities to enhance the delivery of programs.

However, we are equally aware of the need for schools to work with their local community to ensure that their educational outcomes do not impact on the daily activities of the residents and their well-being.

As relatively new residents to the area and in particular, Prospect Street, we have experienced an increased difficulty in parking close to our residence inside and outside of normal working hours. During normal working hours it is almost impossible to park in the street. One of these reasons is the use of our street for parking by students, parents and staff members who we have seen occupy spaces during the day. This observation is supported by the school's own survey which shows that 70% of all teachers currently drive to school, meaning at least 80 staff members look for parking on the local streets. This does not include tuck shop and other volunteers, cleaners and some students and visitors who drive to the school.

Through our experiences we are fully aware that private schools are looking to reduce the level of fee income by introducing alternate funding sources. These funding sources include the hiring of significant facilities to the corporate sector and general public. In addition, learn to swim programs are a proven method of revenue raising. St Catherine's proposed increase in the number of students, the increase in the use of the facilities by external groups and the development of a lucrative learn to swim program will all place further immense pressure on local traffic flow and parking.

To only provide an additional 19 parking places is outrageous and an insult to the community.

Like schools that have undertaken similar expansion projects have all catered for increased parking. Trinity Grammar School in Summer Hill built an underground facility with 300 spaces and plans to expand that to over 400. Kambala School in Rose Bay included parking facilities for over 100 cars and their development is insignificant compared with that of St Catherine's. MLC in Perth built a major

underground car park for students, staff and outside users. I have no doubt that throughout Australia there are numerous other examples.

Disappointingly, the school representatives are publicly suggesting that to overcome the parking issue they will encourage students to walk, ride and use public transport instead. Whilst this may be their intention, from what we have experienced at similar schools, parents and students have scant regard for requests when it comes to pick up, drop off, parking and road rules.

It is our understanding that current drops off zones at St Catherine's are grossly inadequate. The parents double park, park in no standing zones and use residential driveways to drop off children. The school survey also shows that no one travels by bike to school and only 14.5% use public transport. Around 50% of students live within 1.5 kilometres of the school campus and could walk to school. The school has no public transport or walk to school program. Recent published photographs showing traffic outside The Scots College depict the problems outlined above. Unfortunately, these photos could have been taken at numerous high fee paying Sydney private schools, St Catherine's included.

To exacerbate the parking problem, there does not appear to be a plan for the construction workers over the next 15 years.

For this proposal to be considered as feasible there must be significant changes to parking at the St Catherine's and traffic management in the region. With respect to Prospect Street there must be marked bays, signage and enforced 2 hour limits for users other than residents.

We are happy to elaborate on any concern raised.

Yours sincerely

Craig and Jenny Davies

17 Prospect Street

WAVERLEY NSW 2024