

To: Planning & Infrastructure

From: Mark Digby & Megan Baker (6 Kiogle Street, Wahroonga, NSW 2076) 28 July 2013

Re: SAH Education Centre Modification Request (MOD4)

Before considering expanding the Education Centre and reducing parking, please first consider the following:

- Expanding and locking-in full-scale football fields for the primary and proposed high schools.
- Allowing free-parking (and not limited to the first 15 minutes) for visitors and workers in the hospital.
- Sharing with the community on how the SAH sees the vision for traffic concerns (rather than SAH telling residents that they are 'waiting for direction' from the Roads & Maritime Services). [For one, we certainly do not want to see tree-lined avenues cut down.]
- Building a pedestrian walk-over for the Comenarra Parkway at the Fox Valley Road intersection.
- Rather than approving random retrofits of the suburbs, Planning & Infrastructure (& local government) compiling (and presenting) smart, long-term, integrated planning, complete with transport and public facilities. [In this regard, we would suggest that it would have made far more sense to build a second high-rise SAH campus in the vicinity of the under-utilised Thornleigh station (around which commercial/light industrial land has also been under-utilised), with planned integration into the proposed M2-F3 link.]

While the community certainly needs well-run businesses, the community should be mindful that Sydney Adventist Hospital is just this - big business (despite all the carefully orchestrated public relations). As such, the commercial pressures and vested interests in comfortable careers within this organisation are large - much the same pressures which have seen, for example, Sanitarium marketing dietary deficient products to children (requiring ACCC intervention), rather than setting the benchmark.

Our concern is that Sydney Adventist Hospital are essentially being given carte blanche, by stealth or otherwise, to do almost anything they really would like to. The whole public consultation process appears essentially a bureaucratic white-wash, and, to an extent, indicative of fraying democracy processes 'at the edges' (witness the extraordinary efforts that the good residents of Willoughby have gone to in an attempt to be heard in relation to the Channel 9 site redevelopment). It appears we have a state government waving everything through, while bureaucratically challenged Ku-ring-gai Municipal Council remains far from optimally effective in carrying out its public mission (with a current focus on building its new chambers). This state/local government situation makes for an extremely unhealthy state of affairs.

Already, we have seen parking congestion build up in our little street (Kiogle). The opening of the new parking facilities at the SAH came and went, and parking congestion has only increased - all on record as being totally foreseeable (and predicted). With now barely a car's width to drive-up Kiogle Street (due to parked cars), and with children living up and down the uncurbed street, the speed limit has been set at an unbelievably high 50 km/h (which does not give one much confidence in RMS planning and safety capability to begin with). Already, the increased SAH traffic light timings on Fox Valley Road have noticeably hindered and increased traffic congestion.

Whilst not being anti-progress per se, it is difficult to see the merit in building larger profile buildings to spew more people and consequential traffic into our suburban streets (whose essential pleasant, tree-lined, suburban character we do not want changed), while at the same time reducing accessible parking, and ignoring the need for such facilities as healthy, full-sized playing fields for school children.

We could go on, but won't. Thank you.