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Hornsby NSW 2077

8th July 2020

Name of Application: Blue Gum Community School

Application No: SSD-10444

OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSAL

Nil Reportable Donations Made in the Previous Two Years

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to **object** to the proposal to change the dwelling Mt Errington into a preschool and/or primary school based on the following projected detrimental ramifications of the project's approval:

Creating a school in this quiet, residential area will have an immense impact on the neighbourhood. Numerous homes are in very close proximity to the property, creating concerns surrounding noise from construction, children and cars, increased pollution from cars and misplaced rubbish, additional to highly reduced privacy. All of these impacts will cause undue stress on residents of this area, greatly diminish the amenity of the neighbourhood by changing the environment greatly from its current quiet residential state.

Street parking, very popular with commuters, will become unfeasible due to the proposed 10-minute parking restriction. There will be a high impact on surrounding properties and increased traffic in the area, worsening the already congested William St, Rosemead Rd and Dural St which are only capable of one-way traffic when commuters are parked on both sides of the street. It is impractical to have cars travelling two ways down Rosemead Rd to the entrance or from the exit due to street parking congestion, which remained unchanged following commuter carpark upgrades. No spaces will be available for parents with current restrictions, and 12 parking spots on the property is insufficient for drop off/pick up. Residents already have trouble exiting their driveways with current levels of vehicles parked on weekdays. Following the recent approval of the large Hornsby West Side 'Twin Towers', concerns over congestion need to be considered further in respect to movement of traffic through the area towards the one-way section of Dural St which leads to the school's proposed entrance. The capacity of these roads and commuter parking must be improved and future proofed.

Population is dense in the adjacent retirement home. There will be a highly increased risk to pedestrians, especially the elderly, with more frequent road traffic and traffic entering/exiting the school across the footpath. Cars exiting the premises will have obstructed visibility of oncoming cars on the street due to large trees lining the nature strip. One tree along this nature strip is a very large

Norfolk Pine adjacent to the property entrance, which poses a danger of dropping seeds onto pedestrians.

Tree loss has already occurred on the property with the most significant tree being removed at the end of last year to make way for the proposed expanded driveway and carpark at the rear of our house. Clearing will occur to transform the site, with the removal of gardens and a section of the nature strip. Large portions of the heritage gardens have already been removed in recent months to mask the further damage that will occur. Of note is that the garden is heritage-listed, considered a locally significant site

(<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritageapp/ViewHeritageltemDetails.aspx?ID=1780733>)

Over my 16 years of residing in at my current address, I have witnessed many species of animals living in and around the school, including many Australian brushturkeys which created nests on the southern part of the site and resulted in hatchlings being born each year. Bowerbirds nested on the western side of the property for many years, and echidnas have moved across the site towards the valley and Waitara Creek in recent years. Laughing kookaburras, Australian magpies and noisy miners are seen constantly in the property. I have grown concerned at the loss of tree coverage, increased levels of vehicular traffic and threat of development in the area which could devastate local native species populations.



Echidna on property, 2019



Echidna on property, 2019



Azaleas that have since been removed, 2019



Echidna in garden on west side that has since been removed, 2019

Impact on heritage will be drastic due to irreversible damage caused by alteration of premises and gardens in the process of altering the property in accordance with regulations for schools. A direct consequence of these alterations is the loss of original 19th century Federation period building elements and features during conversion. The house is still entirely appropriate for residential use, still occupied by residents to this day. The change of architecture and removal of heritage elements such as removal of the front gates and replacement of fences will damage the amenity of the area. This house has great significance for the area, as one of the first houses in the Hornsby area with notable residents across more than a century, and having hosted ABC Easy Care and Gardening Garden and Market Day on 12 May 2011 (<http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2011/03/04/3155684.htm>). It is noted on this website that "There is very limited street parking".

There is no demand for primary or pre-schooling in the area due to the generally older population in the immediate surroundings, requiring all families to travel by car to the site. According to the 2016 ABS Census data, Statistical Area 1157826 in which the property is located has an average resident age of 49, and an average of 0.5 children for all families living in the area, while the New South Wales average age is 38 years and an average of 0.8 children for all families. Further east of this area in Statistical Area 1157806 on the west side of Hornsby, the average number of children for all families is 0.4. Additionally, comparing the 2011 Census data for Hornsby to the 2016 Census data, the average age of residents has increased from 35 to 36. A school in this area would not only inconvenience the residents living in this area as it is not relevant to them, it would negatively impact people's health due to the aforementioned issues. There are no public bus services available directly to the site, the closest being to Hornsby Station, and travel by train is not an option for the target ages of this school. Furthermore, there are numerous other appropriate schooling options available targeting the proposed school's target market within 5km of the area in which the property is situated, including Hornsby Montessori Preschool and Uniting Sarah's Place Early Learning Hornsby (in immediate vicinity), Hornsby Central Preschool Kindergarten, MindChamps Early Learning Centre, Heritage House Hornsby Childcare & Early Learning Centre, The Jack & Jill Kindergarten, Hornsby South Early Learning Centre, Blooming Buds Family Day Care Hornsby, Thrive Early Learning Centre, Three Bears Kindergarten, Tiny Tots Long Day Care Centre Hornsby, Twinkle Tots Cottage, Kids Academy Hornsby, Barker College Preparatory and Junior School, Clarke Road School (catering for special needs), Hornsby South Public School, Guardian Childcare & Education Hornsby, Explore & Develop Waitara, Only About Children Hornsby, Only About Children Waitara, Only About Children Wahroonga, Great Beginnings Hornsby, Only About Children Asquith, Kinder Academy Early Learning Centre, Kym's Family Day Care Asquith, Asquith Public School, Big Fish Little Fish Family Day Care, Orange Blossom Early Learning Centre, Peter Rabbit Community Preschool, Hornsby Heights Preschool Kindergarten, Hornsby North Public School, KU Grevillea Preschool, Normanhurst Public School, Normanhurst West Community Preschool, Normanhurst Long Day Care Centre, Normanhurst Childcare Centre, Normanhurst West Public School, Wahroonga Long Day Care Centre, Thornleigh Preschool and Chilverleigh Early Learning.

I therefore vehemently oppose any development of the heritage dwelling Mt Errington, especially into a preschool and primary school. This would undoubtedly reduce my enjoyment and the amenity of the quiet Mt Errington heritage precinct and cause me profound undue stress as the noise and other factors outlined above will intensify my anxiety. In the case the school is approved, residents will continue to oppose the project as the character of the neighbourhood environment will be

changed considerably and the quality of life of these residents will be diminished. In order for these concerns to be averted and eliminated, this project which has been imposed upon the community without consultation must not be authorised.

Yours faithfully,

Eden Timms.