

Tangara SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

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Director, Infrastructure Projects
North West Rail Link
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

1 December 2012

Dear Sir / Madam

RE: EIS 2 – Cherrybrook Station - Application No. SSI-5414

Tangara has reviewed the proposal and as a school, we are very much looking forward to the benefits of having a local railway station for our community. We do, however, have some serious objections to the most recent proposal.

This proposal does not adequately address our concerns about the safety of both the school and local communities along Franklin Road, either during the construction phase, or after completion, when the station will be in full use.

Franklin Road is a difficult road for many vehicles at any time, due to many inconsistencies in road widths and alignments.

We believe the following changes would reduce the risks of constructing and operating a railway station on the same road as a busy school and local community:

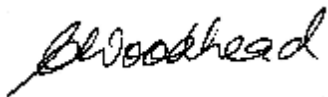
- Restrict all bus movements on Franklin Road to existing school bus services only
- Keep the end of Franklin Road as it is - exit only, from Franklin Road into Castle Hill Road. Do not allow entry from Castle Hill Road. This should reduce the number of vehicles tempted to drive through as shortcut to internal Cherrybrook roads, and would prevent total blockage of the road at peak periods

- Prohibit truck movements along Franklin Road during the school peak hours (7.45-8.45am and 2.45-3.45 pm, or the broader RTA's official SCHOOL ZONE hours) during the construction phase
- Ensure parking for construction workers is on the station site, not on Franklin Road. Workers should only be able to enter the site from Castle Hill Road
- Widen Franklin Road to a consistent width from Castle Hill Road up to John Road as soon as possible, properly kerbed and guttered, with safe and adequate pedestrian access for the increased numbers expected with the railway in use
- Provide highly visible flashing school zone signs along Franklin Road
- Provide clear speed restrictions at all times along Franklin Road
- Install Pedestrian crossings at additional locations along Franklin Road adjacent to the School before construction begins
- Retain parking along Franklin Road along one side of the road, and restrict all parking to outside school peak hours, particularly opposite the school gates where vehicles enter and exit and car lines build up.

Please find attached some background information about our school and its operations and activities to support these suggestions.

I may be reached at Tangara or by email for further information.

Yours sincerely



Cathy Woodhead
 Director of Administration
cathy.woodhead@tangara.nsw.edu.au

ATTACHMENT 1 – BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Tangara is a school for boys and girls from Kindergarten to Year 1, and for girls from Year 2 to Year 12, on a campus stretching from number 77 to 97 on Franklin Road.

The School was established in 1982 and operates Monday to Friday, from 8.30 am to 3.15pm. School enrolments range from 600 to 700 on the campus. Approximately 100 staff members (full and part time) access the campus most days. Public transport to the area is limited, and as the school draws enrolments from across Sydney, ***the majority of students are driven to school and picked up by parents or extended family members.***

Each school day 20- 30 children attending our Wahroonga Infants' Campus are transported by a private bus from Tangara in the mornings and back in the afternoons. Additional children travel between Tangara and our 'brother' school at Dural on the private bus. All of these children are brought to and from Tangara by parents.

Once there is a railway station at Franklin Road, at least some of the older students may travel by train, however, it is unlikely that younger children will use the train, and these children will continue to be brought by car. In addition, the children travelling between the schools will continue to be brought to the school by car.

Many parent vehicles and 3-4 large buses transport students each morning and afternoon. The peak periods of traffic are between 7.45-8.45am and 2.45-3.45 pm. Students are picked up from 'carlines' at each end of the campus. This results in traffic banking up along Franklin Road for some distance at either end of the School, with the biggest lines (and delays) occurring in the afternoon.

There are numerous after hours activities on site including various sports, debating, musical evenings, parent functions and more. There are regular evening functions and many other activities on weekdays and Saturdays, bringing children, parents and visitors. Parents come in and out of the school during school days to attend interviews or activities on campus. Cars park along Franklin Road once the limited on-site parking is full.

Parking signage along Franklin Road is inconsistent. Some areas permit parking at all times, others restrict parking to non-peak school times.

Franklin Road is currently struggling to cope with the traffic for the school. There is one stretch of road near an exit from our School (Gate 2) where parking is permitted along the road on one side, and only one car can pass (in one direction) at a time. It is only a matter of time before there is an accident here.

Children and other people walk cross over the busy road. There are no pedestrian crossings.