

Objection to the Renewal Project of Trinity Grammar School (SSD-10371)

This is the third major development project that the school has undertaken in the last 15 years. It is being mis-represented as a 're-development' project –as if it is replacing existing infrastructure, when in fact, it is constructing new buildings, adding to new buildings, and altering an existing car park. It is NOT a Renewal Project – it is an EXPANSION project that is NOT of state significance.

I am objecting on the grounds of:

Demolition of houses and removal of trees diminishing amenity in a residential and heritage neighbourhood

The School is located within a residential neighbourhood. Thanks to purchasing private homes on its boundary (along a narrow, suburban street), the School has already demolished several of the houses, is now proposing to demolish two further houses and to remove trees from the site. The School now presents itself to the local community as a spike-topped fenced, gated institution that has no relationship with the residential neighbourhood of which it was, once, part.

Violation of LEC-mandated number of students enrolled. The Land and Environment Court decision in 2014 was to cap student numbers at 1,500. The School has clearly already exceeded that number of enrolments (to 1,655).

The proposal to further increase the number of students to 2,100, most of whom do not live within walking/cycling distance of the school.

Traffic volume and danger

Most students attending the school are driven to school in private vehicles or in large buses. The volume of traffic in local streets is already large – and will increase with a further 450 students. The traffic is a danger to local residents including the local school children attending the three pre and primary schools within 1.5 km radius of the school.

Residents are unable to safely enter and exit our driveways, the noise and emissions from the cars and buses are unavoidable, and on-street parking in the neighbourhood is often taken by school-related vehicles. The proposed changes to the car park do not include an increase in the number of parking spaces sufficient to absorb the needs of an additional 450 students.

Traffic type

The School has only just completed its last major construction project – imposing oversized vehicles on the neighbourhood routinely, damaging roads and footpaths, blocking ingress and egress to local streets, and creating danger to pedestrians. The massive building project being proposed will be a continuation of this – requiring large machinery to be brought on site, disruption and displacement of local traffic, and imposing noise and dust on residents – and, actually, students at the school.

Inappropriate site for a school facilities building

Having demolished a further two homes on Seaview Street (and removing the mature trees that add greatly to the amenity of the neighbourhood, the School is proposing to put a building in a location that is completely inappropriate for the site. It will mean large trucks needing to enter and exist onto Seaview Street (already only two lanes wide), close peoples' homes, and to a difficult intersection that will be made more dangerous with larger and more trucks, and with the transport required by a further 450 students are enrolled.

There is no justification for the increase in student numbers or the massive expansion of built structures in this space

The School provides no justification for this being a State Significant Development. The School will receive significant government grants (i.e. taxpayer funding) to fund this project. The School (or the institution of which it is part) does not pay tax. The School has already violated the legal ruling of the Land and Environment Court on student numbers. The School has already subjected local residents (and its own students) to years of construction and disruption. The School does not make its facilities accessible to the local community – instead imposing an institutional environment on a residential neighbourhood.

We have lived in the neighbourhood for almost thirty years. For the last fifteen years we have been subjected to pressure from the School almost continuously – seeking to expand its size and infrastructure, and now, seeking to impose oversized buildings, dangerous traffic, and a denuded natural environment on a residential neighbourhood. Please disallow this proposal.

I would have liked to be able to see the School as a valued, good neighbour – instead, it has become an inward looking adversary, with very little respect for the impact it has on the people and environment within which it operates.