

20/7/2021

To the attention of:

The Hon. Dr (Geoff) Geoffrey LEE, Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education

Saniya Sharmeen, City of Parramatta Council, Traffic & Transport Investigations Engineer

<https://majorprojects.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/have-your-say>

Response to Carlingford West Public School Upgrade, Community Notification, July 2021

Although we do not wish to stand in the way of a significant upgrade of the CWPS we do expect the NSW government and the local Parramatta Council to take a significant interest in the effect of traffic in the Carlingford area particularly in streets surrounding the school.

After carefully reading through the material available on the NSW Government Planning Portal we DO NOT agree that sufficient attention is focussed on mitigation or improvement of the current unpleasant traffic congestion in the area. In fact, we believe the Transport and Accessibility Impact Assessment (TAIA) prepared by Taylor Thompson Whiting has understated the current and future congestion experienced by the local residents and the mitigation recommended will be ineffective.

In a letter to residents dated 31 May 2018, Parramatta Council recognised traffic congestion issues in Sandringham Drive, Edinburgh Avenue, Adrian Court and Empire Courts Carlingford. This letter requested comment on a proposal to implement School peak-period parking restrictions in those streets. We supported the proposed parking restrictions and a copy of our response dated June 22, 2018 to Council is attached below.



Figure 1- Driver Standoff in front of 19 Edinburgh Avenue Carlingford

Prompted by witnessing regular aggressive altercations between drivers, we again contacted Council by email on July 15, 2020 as nothing had changed in regards to traffic management in the previous TWO YEARS.

The Carlingford West Public School Upgrades Exhibits published on the Planning Portal do recognise that traffic congestion as an issue and rates it as: Likelihood: Possible, Magnitude: Major on page 25 of Appendix 25 - Social Impact Assessment.

Along with the comment: "There are considerable existing traffic and parking challenges associated with CWPS, with evidence this is having a negative impact on the community's way of life and ability to access services and facilities."

The report then goes on to brush the issue under the carpet, so to speak. Other parts of the portal exhibits are also included below for your reference.

We find this response UNACCEPTABLE and believe the NSW Government and Parramatta Council have a responsibility to ensure the safety of School Children, Pedestrians, Motorists and Local Residents is foremost in their planning of this major infrastructure upgrade and take steps to more thoroughly manage a solution to the traffic congestion issue.

We do expect our comments to be taken seriously and we also do request that we are kept updated on this matter in a timely fashion.

Yours sincerely,

Anne & Chris Sweet
19 Edinburgh Avenue,
Carlingford, NSW 2118

References attached below:

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Appendix 25 - Social Impact Assessment

Engagement Outcomes, Page 14

Traffic management and accessibility

- ✦ Queries were raised by stakeholders about how the proposal would address ongoing issues of traffic congestion during drop off and pick up times. Many stakeholders believe the proposal will exacerbate traffic congestion. Anecdotal evidence suggested waiting times of up to an hour in traffic to drop off and collect students before and after school.
- ✦ Challenges were raised by residents neighbouring the school about ongoing challenges with managing dangerous driving behaviour.
- ✦ Concerns were raised by residents about the current number of students enrolled at CWPS. Residents felt that the current number of students enrolled at the school is far too high.
- ✦ Frustrations from residents that the large number of students attending the school has resulted in undue pressure being placed on surrounding road infrastructure. Residents also explained that local traffic management during school hours has become such a critical issue that they feel it has impacted how they carry out daily activities.
- ✦ Concerns were raised from stakeholders that encouraging walking and cycling to school is not a realistic solution to resolving traffic issues. There were concerns expressed for the safety of students riding and walking to school, particularly at the proposed car park driveway and services entry, where there is possibility for pedestrian, car and truck conflict.

6.2. MODERATE TO HIGH IMPACTS, Page 18

Traffic and parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Way of life▪ Accessibility	<p>Traffic and parking are an existing issue for CWPS staff, students and families, as well as local residents. The Transport and Accessibility Impact Assessment (TAIA) acknowledges the proposal will result in traffic conditions consistent with existing conditions.</p> <p><i>The TAIA finds that future traffic conditions around CWPS will not change due to the proposal.</i></p> <p>Community members and stakeholders expressed significant concerns with traffic and parking around the school, particularly at student drop off and pick up times. There were strong concerns that current traffic and road safety issues are not sufficiently addressed by the proposal and that more could be done to incorporate the operational requirements of the school into the design.</p>
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7.4. TRAFFIC AND PARKING

Document - Appendix 25 - Social Impact Assessment, Page 24

Current Environment

“Traffic and parking have been a point of tension between the school community and local residents. Community and stakeholder engagement revealed that existing traffic associated with CWPS is considered a major concern, with reports of long traffic queues. Representatives of the P&C Committee also described the stress that existing traffic issues place on families, with some families arriving at the school up to an hour before drop off or pick up time. Some nearby residents report planning their days so as not to coincide their movements with school drop off and pick up hours.”

Impact of the proposal

The TAIA finds that future traffic conditions around CWPS will not change due to the proposal. This finding is based on the school having a population of 1,610 students.

The TAIA acknowledges the existing levels of traffic congestion associated with the school and includes an overall transport strategy to support the redevelopment of CWPS.

The transport strategy for the proposal aims to reduce existing levels of traffic by replacing some car travel with alternative modes and implementing works to improve walking and cycling.

Community members and stakeholders expressed significant concerns with traffic and parking around the school, particularly at student drop off and pick up times. There were strong concerns that current traffic and road safety issues are not sufficiently addressed by the proposal and that more could be done to incorporate the operational requirements of the school into the design. Stakeholders considered that the proposed reliance on active transport methods is neither viable nor safe in an area of substantial traffic congestion.

Residual impact (considering management measures)	
Likelihood: Possible	Magnitude: Major
There are considerable existing traffic and parking challenges associated with CWPS, with evidence this is having a negative impact on the community's way of life and ability to access services and facilities.	
<i>The TAIA prepared to accompany this SSDA finds that future traffic conditions around CWPS will not change due to the proposal, as it is not proposing any changes to the existing condition.</i>	
If the rebalancing of students attending public schools within the catchment is not successful in preventing the ongoing growth in student numbers, the local community will likely face additional negative impacts to its way of life and accessibility.	

8. CONCLUSION

This SIA has been undertaken to assess the potential social impacts arising from the proposed alterations and additions to CWPS.

8.1. KEY SOCIAL IMPACTS

Traffic and parking: *There are considerable existing traffic and parking challenges associated with CWPS, with evidence this is having a negative impact on the community's way of life and ability to access services and facilities.*

The TAIA prepared to accompany this SSDA finds that future traffic conditions around CWPS will not change due to the proposal, as it is not proposing any changes to the existing condition. If the rebalancing of students attending public schools within the catchment is not successful in preventing the ongoing growth in student numbers, the local community will likely face additional negative impacts to its way of life and accessibility.

SR 409805 Acknowledgement to Anne and Chris Sweet regarding TS 2018 22

Thu 16/07/2020 3:44 PM

Good afternoon Anne and Chris,

Thank you for your email dated 15 July 2020 regarding the traffic survey undertaken on 31 May 2018. A Service Request has been created regarding your request.

Please quote reference no. SR 409805 when making any queries regarding this matter.

Your request has been forwarded to City of Parramatta's Traffic and Transport Team Leader, Saniya Sharmeen for investigation.

A further reply will be sent to you once these investigations are complete.

Kind regards,

Traffic and Transport | Development and Traffic Services

Ph: 9806 5050

City of Parramatta
126 Church Street, Parramatta NSW 2150
PO Box 32, Parramatta, NSW 2124
cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au



From: Anne & Chris
Sent: Wednesday, 15 July 2020 10:43 AM
To: Traffic <Traffic@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au>
Subject: Follow Up: TS 2018 22 - Resident Response

***[EXTERNAL EMAIL] Stop and think before opening attachments, clicking on links or responding.

Reference: TS 2018 22

Attention: Saniya Sharmeen
City of Parramatta Council
Traffic & Transport Investigations Engineer

Dear Saniya,

I am following up on a submission to Council from June of 2018 where parking restrictions were proposed for various streets around Carlingford West Public School. The parking is very congested in Edinburgh Avenue during school afternoon pickup time as Edinburgh Avenue becomes a single lane due to vehicles parking on both sides of the roadway.

I have attached a photograph below of a recent standoff between two drivers that took some time to resolve itself, this is now a very common occurrence where vehicles must reverse to clear the traffic gridlock. As you can appreciate with many small children being present this behaviour has its dangers.

As residents have not received any follow up since Council's request for comment dated May 31, 2018 could you please inform us of Council's intention in regard to traffic management around Carlingford West Public School?

Best regards,

Anne & Chris Sweet
19 Edinburgh Avenue,
Carlingford, NSW 2118



From: Anne & Chris

Sent: Friday, 22 June 2018 1:20 PM

To: 'traffic@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au' <traffic@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: TS 2018 22 - Resident Response

Reference: TS 2018 22

Attention: Saniya Sharmeen

City of Parramatta Council

Traffic & Transport Investigations Engineer

Dear Saniya,

We wish to express our thanks to Parramatta Council for the invitation to comment on the proposed parking restrictions in Edinburgh Avenue. Please note there is a small error in the request for comment letter, Friday is June 22nd rather than the 21st for submission of responses.

We agree that the amount of traffic and the behaviour of drivers in the streets surrounding Carlingford West Public School is creating many dangerous incidents each day and we wish to support the proposed restrictions.

As you can imagine there will be times when the restrictions may inconvenience residents parking in front of their homes, although this will diminish with familiarity and effective communication to residents in advance of the restrictions coming into place. Perhaps a grace period where warning notices are placed on vehicle windscreens rather than a fine would be a way of gaining acceptance and cooperation of drivers.

In regard to signage, the residents of the area take pride in their streets and we request Council be sensitive in sign placement along the streets affected, particularly our own, Edinburgh Avenue. A solution would be to place the signs at lot boundaries rather than directly in the lawn area in front of each residence, something we would not be in favour of.

Yours sincerely,

Anne & Chris Sweet
19 Edinburgh Avenue,
Carlingford, NSW 2118