
Sent: 10/11/2020 5:39:49 PM
Subject: Forest Way Shopping Centre Redevelopment Traffic issues

Dear Minister Constance,

I have had a large number of representations from constituents concerning proposed traffic access plans for the Northern Beaches Council DA 2118/1924 for the redevelopment of the Forestway Shopping Centre at Forestville.

This plan is to redevelop and expand the shopping facilities and parking. It also proposes 300 new residential units to be built above the shops. There are a considerable number of submissions on the council website opposing the DA, which overwhelmingly object strenuously to the traffic plan for this project.

I understand the current traffic management plan is to block right turns from Russell Avenue onto Forest Way. This would necessitate traffic travelling a considerable distance through narrow residential streets to access a right hand turn onto Warringah Road at Brown Street. Residents already experience the negative impact of large volumes of traffic using those back streets.

Those local streets are not a suitable solution to access issues for the developers of the Forestway Shopping Centre. The traffic burden on the local residential back streets would include the private vehicles of existing and additional shoppers to the redeveloped facilities, large delivery trucks and the hundreds on new residents living in the proposed residential high-rise above the Forestway Shopping Centre.

My recollection of the original precinct plan was that a ban on the right hand turn from Russell Avenue was linked to making Naree Avenue a four way intersection so that there would be a close and convenient right hand turn to Forest Way providing a route from the shopping centre to Warringah Road.

I realise the local roads are a council responsibility and Forest Way and Warringah Road are under the control of Transport for NSW (TfNSW). There needs to be effort from both council and TfNSW to work cooperatively to resolve this issue. If TfNSW consider a dedicated right hand turn from Russell Avenue is not a viable response, there needs to be a solution found that will provide that dedicated right hand turn further along Forest Way at Naree Avenue. It seems that compulsory acquisition of properties would be required to achieve that expansion of the Naree Road / Forest Way intersection.

Residents are understandably distressed at the prospect of a large volume of traffic using Grace Ave and other back streets. Increased demand on Grace Ave and other local roads to access Warringah Road should be discouraged. I am firm in my stand that the proposed redevelopment should not be approved unless traffic issues are resolved, most likely through a right turn onto Forest Way - either at Russell Ave or via a new access road at Naree Road as previously contemplated.

Would your office please consider this situation and provide a response.

Yours sincerely,
Jonathan

The Hon. Jonathan O'Dea MP
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Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly

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