
Sent: 8/02/2020 10:04:59 AM
Subject: Online Submission

08/02/2020

MRS Michele Edwards
- 39 Grace AVE
Frenchs Forest NSW 2086
andchele@yahoo.com

RE: DA2018/1924 - Forest Way FRENCHS FOREST NSW 2086

While we welcome the suggested upgrades to Forestway Shopping Centre, which are well overdue, we have strong concerns regarding traffic management if Grace Avenue is to become the main entrance and exit from the centre and strongly oppose this aspect.

The current proposal sees the closure of the Russell Avenue carpark entry, making the Grace Avenue entry one of only two entrances to the main underground carpark. This proposal will dramatically increase the traffic on Grace Avenue resulting in not only more congestion but it also raises significant safety issues. Additionally, we oppose the closure of Russell Ave and the extension of Naree Rd through existing dwellings to Grace Ave. This diversion of traffic from a main road to narrow local streets will put a huge strain on already congested back streets all the way from the shopping centre to Forestville, where the only easy access to Warringah Rd going south is at Brown Street (traffic lights), and from Sorlie Rd to Davidson where streets are already narrow and residents are the elderly or young families. All of these streets are already congested during morning and evening peak hours due to the inadequacy of the traffic flow at Forest Way and Warringah Rd.. Grace Avenue is currently subject to heavy traffic flows and this traffic is already increasing due to the new Northern Beaches Hospital. Grace Avenue should be a quiet residential street as it is home to single dwellings which are not subject to rezoning under the Northern Beaches Hospital Precinct Plan.

The DA's attached Traffic Report forecasts that the Grace Avenue carpark entry will see more than a 400% increase in vehicle access. This will mean hundreds more vehicles using the roundabout at Russell Avenue and Grace Avenue. This is an already dangerous roundabout that is the source of frequent motor vehicle accidents. Increasing traffic flows through this roundabout, as proposed in the DA, will significantly increase the likelihood of a fatal accident.

In addition to driver-safety issues, the DA raises significant pedestrian-safety issues. It is already near impossible for pedestrians to cross next to the Russell/Grace Avenue roundabout during peak hours. Increased traffic will mean Grace Avenue's many elderly residents, local school children and parents with prams will rarely find a break in the traffic that will allow for safe passage.

We take this opportunity to ask Council to reconsider and not allow Grace Avenue to be converted into a heavy-traffic, four-lane main street for the purpose of reducing congestion on the main roads. Surely the three long years of roadworks to improve the main roads should have increased their capacity to deal with this traffic, but it appears to have had no real impact so far.

In summary, although we support the shopping centre upgrade, we strongly object to the DA's proposal to make the Grace Avenue carpark entrance the source of such major traffic flows as it directly comprises the safety of the local community. The original plan for traffic was better and could be easily achieved.