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Subject: Online Submission

17/02/2021

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RE: DA2020/1758 - 11 Lewis Street BALGOWLAH HEIGHTS NSW 2093

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I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed development DA2020/1758.

I am deeply concerned about the impact the proposed development will have on the safety of the Balgowlah Heights Public School students and families, of whom my family are one.

Based on my review of the DA, the proposed development is set to significantly increase vehicular traffic in a street already struggling to cope with the current level of traffic at school drop off and pick-up times. More vehicular traffic makes Lewis Street more dangerous for the hundreds of school children who walk down it on their way to and from school every day.

Dozens of cars will be driving across the footpath to access the car park of the proposed development; a footpath used by hundreds of school children every morning and afternoon, many of whom are walking to school on their own. In my view, this presents an unacceptable risk to the health and safety of those children. The cars leaving the day care centre carpark will need to reverse across the footpath, making it even more dangerous as the drivers' field of vision is reduced. There is no footpath on the opposite side of Lewis Street, giving pedestrians no option but to walk across the dangerous car park entrance. It will only be a matter of time before an accident occurs.

The proposed carpark does not contain sufficient car parking spaces to service the childcare centre. This will result in more cars trying to park on and around Lewis Street. It is already nigh on impossible to find a park in or near Lewis Street at school drop off or pick up time. I can't imagine what it would be like with the additional parkers generated by the childcare centre.

The area is already well serviced with childcare centres - has the council conducted a proper and fair assessment to determine whether there is a need for another one? As a parent, I had no trouble finding childcare placements at the local centres of my choice for both my children. One of my children is still attending childcare in the local area, so my experience is current and relevant.

I also object to the proposed development on the basis that such a commercial building is wholly inappropriate and out of character for a residential street like Lewis Street, and sets a dangerous precedent for the type and character of buildings permitted in residential areas.

The risk the development presents to the safety of children attending Balgowlah Heights Public School is unacceptable. Please do not approve this development.

Yours sincerely,
Amber Howison
BHPS parent and Clontarf resident