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Subject: Online Submission

08/02/2020

DR Dana Robaei
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RE: DA2019/1419 - 49 Frenchs Forest Road East FRENCHS FOREST NSW 2086

I write in my capacity as an ophthalmic surgeon and Director of D.Robaei Ophthalmology Pty Ltd (T/A Forest Eye Surgery). My ophthalmic practice operates out of Suites 11 and 12, Building 7, 49 Frenchs Forest Rd East, Frenchs Forest. I am also the co-owner and director of Suites 8 and 10 in the same building (via separate businesses - Persepolis Holdings Pty Ltd).

I object to the above development proposal on the following basis:

1. The majority of my patients are elderly and visually impaired. Many are frail and rely on walking aides to mobilise. My practice owns 3 car spaces in the car park adjoining Building 7 and very close to the proposed development in Building 9. During the building phase of the proposed development (which could last up to 12 months), these 3 car spaces will be inaccessible to my elderly, often visually and physically impaired patients. Many of them would otherwise not be able to attend their eye clinic appointments if they cannot park their cars in the assigned car spaces, and majority cannot walk long distances from alternate parking on the street.
2. A routine part of my practice involves dilation of patient's pupils by eye drops which renders driving dangerous due to further blurring of vision. As such patients require a driving escort who needs to be able to access the practice's car spaces. Many catch taxis, ride share services (such as Uber and Ola), or rely on community or Department of Veteran Affairs transport services to get them to and from my clinic. These taxis and transport vans need to be able to park and wait for patients close to the building entrance or in the car park, so it is critical for my patients that the driveway and parking area remain accessible during normal business hours.
3. The above parking spaces are already being accessed by others in surrounding buildings due to the general paucity of parking spaces nearby. The situation will Almost certainly become untenable if the above development proposal is to go ahead or if bollards are placed on the main driveway, limiting the availability of parking spaces further.
4. In addition to the above, I have grave concerns about the level of vibration which is likely to ensue during the excavation phase of the proposed development. I perform very delicate eye procedures such as intravitreal Injections (injections in the eyes) for common eye conditions including macular degeneration and diabetes. I have grave concerns about my ability to perform these procedures safely with surrounding building vibrations. I also own and operate a number of very delicate ophthalmic instruments and machines which are laser operated. I perform laser treatments for glaucoma and after cataract surgery almost every day in rooms. Again, building vibration may result in misfiring of these lasers and in its worst-case scenario could result in irreversible blindness to my patients.

On the above basis, I strongly urge the Council to limit construction work to night-time (7pm to 7am) and weekends, to minimise vibration and maintain access to what is essentially a PRIVATE road, co- owned and needing to be accessible to 12 building lots. This is critical to the safe and sustainable operation of my ophthalmic practice which services up to 100 patients per week.

I strongly believe that the development phase of this proposal will adversely affect a subgroup of the local population who is already vulnerable and disadvantaged owing to their age, frailty and visual impairment. As a community, we should stand to protect the rights of vulnerable people, and all measures should be taken to limit any further disadvantage to this subgroup.

Thank you in advance for your careful consideration of my objections.

Dr Dana Robaei
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Ophthalmic Surgeon