

## **Objection to Proposed Development DA2020/1039 Bus Depot 15 Jubilee Ave Warriewood**

### **Additional Submission**

19 October 2020

Further to my previous objection to this development I would like to highlight a significant aspect of Warriewood Valley worthy of consideration by Council when assessing this development.

It should be noted that the Temperature Inversion layer prevalent in Warriewood Valley has been mentioned by other objectors to this current development application. It is also noted the Applicant's Air Quality Consultant fails to take into account Temperature Inversion Layers in their report.

### **History**

Warriewood Valley is well known for having a Temperature Inversion Layer of air. Warringah Council were aware of it and Pittwater Council became aware of it. Northern Beaches Council needs to be made aware of it and the effect it can have on residential amenity in the Warriewood Valley.

Long standing residents of over 30 years who have lived in and around Warriewood Valley will recall farmers in the valley burning off their properties in the cooler months. A thin plume of white smoke would be seen rising in the cool air until it reached the warmer air layer some 15 to 20 metres above the ground. At this level the smoke would spread out horizontally over the whole valley, trapped from rising further by the warm air layer above. From our home in Warriewood Road, some 15 metres above the valley floor, we could see over the smoke layer and we could see under the smoke layer. This layer of thick white smoke was trapped at the level of our homes. The smoke would permeate our house to the point our eyes would water and we had difficulty breathing.

An Inversion Layer is defined as: *An atmospheric condition in which a cooler layer of air lies below a warmer layer of air that functions as a "ceiling" for the cooler layer, interfering with normal atmospheric circulation and trapping pollutants.*

[https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/temperature\\_inversion](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/temperature_inversion)

And it is this **trapping of pollutants** that Northern Beaches Council needs to be aware of when considering a bus depot for the Warriewood Valley.

Warringah Council were aware of the Inversion Layer for many years due to the Warriewood Valley being filled with smoke whenever the farmers burnt off in the cooler months. Residents complained to Council. Burning off was eventually banned.

Pittwater Council became aware of the Inversion Layer when the Poli Hi Solidur factory at 1-5 Prosperity Parade submitted a DA to Council in 2006, wishing to extend their operating hours to 24 hours a day on a permanent basis. Solidur were on a 24 hour trial period. They melted plastic pellets and extruding them into plastic components. The smell from their smokestack wafted through the valley. Upon my door-knocking investigations it was clear most of the residents on the hill behind Warriewood Road were aware of the obnoxious burning-plastic smell but didn't know its source. The odours were being trapped under the Inversion Layer in the cooler months. In Autumn and Spring the predominantly southwest breeze was directing the smell towards the residential receivers along Warriewood Road and to the residents on the hillside above. I was advised by a council officer that an unprecedented amount of objections to the DA were received by Pittwater Council, after which the Solidur factory was refused permission to run 24 hours and they subsequently ceased operations in Warriewood.

Herein an excerpt from my 2006 DA objection to Pittwater Council:

It is my opinion the Solidur factory at 1-5 Prosperity Parade Warriewood has failed its trial period. Not only has my family had to endure the obnoxious "melting plastic" smell during the

day when the prevailing breeze is from the South-West – generally Autumn to Spring – we now have the smell lingering through the night - trapped under the Inversion Layer of air which is a predominant feature of the Warriewood Valley in the cooler months. On several occasions my wife and I have had to shut our bedroom windows in the middle of the night because of the odour from the Solidur factory. The noise generated by Solidur's cooling tower is also contributing to the constant background hum that is now a feature of the valley at night due to the council-approved 24 hour activities of another factory nearby. The toxicity of the Solidur fumes is also to be considered - a chimney is in place to vent the fumes away from the factory staff, yet the nearby residents are expected to breathe these noxious fumes all night as they sleep. I have requested toxicity reports from council and Solidur but nothing satisfactory has been forthcoming.

I have approached several of my neighbours who have noticed a "mystery smell" which they thought was 'someone burning plastic in the valley'; 'a melting plastic smell'; 'the neighbour's new combustion stove'; something melting on my car's engine when I arrived home each evening'. Clearly residents are aware of the odour but are unaware of its source or the fact that what is now a somewhat regular occurrence will become a constant 24 hour annoyance. Most residents I approached also complained about the noise generated by the factories at night - from mechanical plant noises to workers hammering through the night.

It is also of major concern that the council should be considering this 24 hour approval whilst deposits are being taken for Seabreeze Estate and Valley View Estate – some lots are within metres of this factory – literally across the road. Prospective new residents of these estates and the developers must be made aware of the impact this 24 hour operation will have on their future amenity.

I enclose correspondence from council's Steve Evans dated 28 August 1996 stating: "No 24 hour operations within the development" and mention of a "buffer area".

To allow this operation to continue 24 hours a day would be irresponsible of a council that publicly prides itself on the amenity of its residents. To quote the Mayor's column February 2000 – "We live in a beautiful area, and the people of Pittwater expect our council to protect this area from unsympathetic development which does not meet our criteria".

After receiving many complaints from residents, former Pittwater Councillor Lynne Czinner arrived at my home at 7am one winter's morning in 2006 specifically to smell the offensive Solidur odour for herself.

This proves that surrounding residents do notice fumes and noise from the valley and do complain to Council. Previous Councils were aware of the Inversion Layer in the valley and took steps to enhance the amenity of its residents and protect them from unsympathetic development.

### **Pollution**

The International Agency for Research on Cancer have classified diesel engine exhaust as carcinogenic to humans (Group 1), determining that exposure to diesel exhaust emissions increases the risk for lung cancer and possibly bladder cancer.

[https://www.ohsrep.org.au/diesel -  
declared carcinogen#:~:text=Based%20on%20studies%20of%20worker,lung%20cancer%20and%  
20possibly%20bladder](https://www.ohsrep.org.au/diesel-declared-carcinogen#:~:text=Based%20on%20studies%20of%20worker,lung%20cancer%20and%20possibly%20bladder)

Considering the Inversion Layer prevalent in Warriewood Valley it would appear highly likely that diesel exhaust fumes from buses idling, manoeuvring, entering and exiting the depot will be trapped under this Inversion Layer and travel horizontally, hanging in the air, level with the homes uphill from this proposed depot. History has proven this will happen with smoke from farmer's fires and molten plastic fumes from Solidur. This time however the diesel fumes will be **carcinogenic**.

My neighbours and I have two bus stops outside our homes. The diesel exhaust fumes from Government buses idling at either bus stop outside our homes is very noticeable, especially in the cooler months. If the bus stops outside our house we can smell the diesel fumes coming in our bedroom window, lingering well after the bus has gone. The proposed CDC bus depot could have as many as 96 bus movements throughout the day, 7 days a week, from before dawn until 11pm at night.

In the cooler months there will be an Inversion Layer of air trapping diesel fumes just 15 metres above the valley floor. A carcinogenic “blanket” hanging overhead - at the level of Arcadia Hospital, Pittwater RSL, homes above Warriewood Road and just above the roof of Blackmores and Pharmicare.

The diesel exhaust emitted from these buses must be considered hazardous to the health of local residents and businesses throughout the Warriewood Valley and will severely impact their amenity.

### **Noise**

Another aspect of the Inversion Layer to consider is sound retention. Sound travels farther in cold air.

*On a cold day, there tends to be a layer of warmer air above the cold pockets closest to the ground. The sound wave that would ordinarily go out in all directions gets refracted by that warm air. Because sound moves faster in warm air than colder air, the wave bends away from the warm air and back toward the ground. That's why sound is able to travel farther in chilly weather.*

<https://www.discovery.com/science/Sound-Carries-Farther-Cold-Days>

All noise emanating from the bus depot will be reflected off the walls of the adjacent factories towards the residential receivers. The sound will travel further and appear amplified due to the Inversion Layer. Buses idling, bus washing and reversing alarms will be echoing through the valley.

This was evident last Sunday 11 October when a crane was being assembled and erected at Blackmores Campus from dawn. I was woken at 6:15 am by reversing beepers, hammering of metal and diesel engines revving. From my window it was possible to hear the workmen calling to each other. This crane was being assembled 275 metres from my home. The proposed bus depot will be half that distance away at 136 metres from my home and only 83 metres from the nearest house in Warriewood Road. If Council is interested I made video recordings at my front porch of the sounds coming from Blackmores crane erection as proof of how sound carries in the valley.

Since the departure of Solidur in 2006 and the Bevcap factory ceasing its 24 hour operations, the valley has become a quiet place at night once again. Any sound from this proposed bus depot at night and early morning will be a continual source of annoyance and frustration for residents.

To quote Patricia Giles in her Pittwater Mayor's column February 2000 – *“We live in a beautiful area, and the people of Pittwater expect our council to protect this area from unsympathetic development which does not meet our criteria”*.

Please register my strongest objection to this most inappropriate, unsympathetic and hazardous development proposal and give serious consideration to the historical facts I have outlined above.

GR Walsh  
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Warriewood NSW