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03/11/2020

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

I refer to the Forestway Shopping Centre Redevelopment Addendum Traffic Report dated 9/10/20 which addresses the changes to traffic flow anticipated from the proposed redevelopment.

Throughout the report are references to future actions that have been contemplated by the Council and State Government for road alterations and closures in the vicinity of the redevelopment. Reference is also made to possible changes to traffic light locations on Forest Way.

As a resident my concern is that already high volumes of local traffic distant from the redevelopment along local roads that have access to Warringah Road and Forest Way via existing traffic lights, will significantly increase if changes are not made in traffic light locations to restrict increased traffic so that it is contained close to the redevelopment.

No reference is made to any study that is in progress by the Council or State Government to research the current traffic flows on Forest Way and Warringah Road so that it could be assumed that there is no focus by the State Government to improve access to and from these major roads for residents or visitors.

The intersection of Altona Ave and Warringah Road is increasingly becoming congested with cars undertaking illegal U-turns (or continuing up Grace Ave) to avoid the delays at Forrest Way and Warringah Road traffic lights in consequence of the new Warringah Rd outcome (they use the underpass to avoid the traffic lights).

My suggestion is that a new set of traffic lights be considered for the intersection of Altona Ave and Warringah Road to address both the current redevelopment proposal and new traffic activities. If Altona Ave is so changed then a no right turn into Altona Ave from Warringah Road similar to that existing at Brown St and Warringah Rd would address my concerns. Locals would still have access from Warringah Rd via other existing entry points albeit with longer travel time. The new traffic lights however would give access and exit to/from Warringah Rd for the proposed redevelopment.

So that traffic flows on Warringah Rd are not significantly slowed by another set of traffic lights, surely in this day-and-age it is possible to coordinate all the traffic lights between the exit to the underpass on Warringah Rd and Roseville Bridge? The problem with this proposed redevelopment of Forestway Shopping Centre is timing - commercial desire to redevelop v slow and uncoordinated Council and State Government decision and planning for the traffic consequences of the Warringah Rd redevelopment and the new hospital / school relocation inertia.

There needs to be a high level oversight body created to bring all these conflicting matters together to get a planned outcome - not a continuing and escalating day by day mess that will cause deteriorating local resident enjoyment of the place in which they live.

Thank you for considering my submission.