
Sent: 29/06/2016 5:14:35 PM

Subject: Request for MP to make representation to Ministers about development at Manly Vale PS (DA2015/0597)

Dear Mr Baird,

I am writing to you about the Development Application for Manly Vale Public School (DA2015/0597), submitted to Warringah Council by the Department of Education and Communities during 2015 and subsequently rejected. It is my understanding that the Sydney East Joint Regional Planning Panel is the consent authority, and that the Minister for Planning has the power to refuse the application.

As outlined below, I am very strongly opposed to the proposal for a number of reasons. I am writing to ask you to represent me and my views to two ministers in your government who have the power to influence the decision made regarding the development application. These are the Hon Rob Stokes MP (Minister for Planning), and the Hon Adrian Piccoli MP (Minister for Education).

I believe there are much more sensible alternatives to the currently proposed development, that will allow a win-win for both the School, the community, and the environment. These include developing the School on an alternative site (potentially through a land swap with a local sporting field), or building a new school on the current footprint, and reducing the size and scale of the development.

Why I am opposed to the Development Application DA2015/0597:

1) The development would place 1000 children in a category 1 bushfire zone, with an evacuation plan that would require 18 Sydney Buses to go up and get the children within 30 minutes. The school is located on the corner of two small streets (Gibbs St and Sunshine St), which means it would be extremely difficult for this operation to be carried out successfully, especially consider the chaos that is likely to ensue in the area if there is a bushfire.

2) Children will not be able to attend the School under days of extreme fire danger. Under all future climate scenarios for Australia, the number of days with extreme fire danger each year is set to increase, which will lead to scores of parents having to find alternative options for their children under very short notice.

3) Only 2 small roads lead up to the school which means that there will be large levels of traffic congestion. Even with the ~400 students that are currently at the School, there are significant issues with parking and dangerous driving by parents who are desperate to get their children to School and rush off to work or other activities. The number of cars is set to increase from around 120 per morning or afternoon up to 380, and the number of buses is set to increase from 2 to at least 5 per morning or afternoon session. There are also congestion issues in other parts of the suburb that will be made even worse, for example the intersection of Kenneth and Condamine Streets, the intersection of

Roseberry Street and Kenneth Road, and the intersection of King St and Condamine St, where cars often build up to unacceptable levels due to entry of parents into St Keiran's School.

4) The levels of congestion will lead to a major safety hazard for children of the school drop off and collection times.

5) The development requires the clearance of 4.37 of pristine native vegetation in Manly Dam War Memorial Reserve and Condoover Reserve. These areas and those contiguous with them contain no less than 53 plant and animal species that are either critically endangered, threatened, or vulnerable. These include the pygmy possum, which was discovered on the site during the species impact statement carried out by the Department of Education and Communities contracted specialists, the Red-Crowned Toadlet, and the Powerful Owl. The impact studies recognise that the clearing of this prime bushland will result in "ongoing incremental loss and degradation for these species". The continued loss of habitat for these species represents "death by a thousand cuts". The genetic diversity of each of the species present in the affected area will be reduced as a result of it being cleared.

6) Following the submission of the Species Impact Statement (SIS) to the Office of Environment and Heritage, the latter stated that the SIS was not prepared properly, and was not in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Planning Assessment Act 1979. In particular, potential impacts on the native New Holland Mouse (which disappeared for over a century after its discovery in 1843, before being rediscovered in Kuringai Chase National Park in 1967) were not properly assessed. This species is listed a vulnerable under the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act of 1999, which means that consultation with the Australian Department of the Environment should be carried out.

7) Building a new school on the current site will lead to massive disruption while our kids are at school, both from destruction of bushland and building.

I ask you to consider alternatives to the current development, and to discuss alternatives with the relevant ministers (Hon Rob Stokes MP, and Hon Adrian Piccoli MP). Alternatives include:

1) Building the School on another site, via a land swap, or through use of public land, or through the purchase of land. There are a number of playing fields in the area that could be used to build the school, which have much better access in terms of road coverage, and that are free from bushfire risk. The land at Manly Vale Public School could then be used to construct playing fields and a car park, such that no loss of total playing field area occurs, and traffic congestion issues are addressed.

2) Building a smaller school on current footprint. A school built to cater for 600-700 students would not require the same level of destruction of "high quality native bushland". An Asset Protection Zone would possibly still be required if the buildings were built on the current footprint, but it is likely that most of the land slated for destruction by the current plan could be saved.

3) According to the Manly Vale PS Development Business Case, this "super school" is being built

primarily to accommodate the overflow of Manly Village PS & Manly West PS. We ask that the multiple options for Manly Village PS be reconsidered in addition to providing the much needed upgrade of Manly Vale PS. This would provide the area with schooling infrastructure in locations which better fit the needs of the electorate.

I believe that one of the above alternatives will produce a far better outcome for the School, the local Community, and the environment, and I request that you and the relevant ministers give them serious consideration.

The following people have been CC'd in this email:

- The Hon Rob Stokes MP (Minister for Planning) - information@planning.nsw.gov.au
- The Hon Adrian Piccoli MP (Minister for Education) - office@piccoli.minister.nsw.gov.au
- Tony Collier (General Manager Warringah Council) - council@warringah.nsw.gov.au
- Dick Persson (Administrator of the Northern Beaches Council) - dick.persson@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely,

Rachael Shupe

This email was sent via do^gooder, a campaign platform that enables people to contact you regarding issues they care about. The FROM field of this email is campaigns@good.do however the email was sent by Rachael Shupe who provided this email address: rachael_shupe@yahoo.com

In accordance with web protocol FC 3834 (<http://www.rfc-base.org/rfc-3834.html>) we have included this address in the REPLY-TO field and you should respond to Rachael Shupe at that email address.

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