

PLEASE DO NOT PUBLISH MY NAME, DETAILS OR LOCATION

8th November, 2019

Independent Planning Committee NSW
Level 3, 201 Elizabeth Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Re – Wahroonga Estate Concept Plan MOD 8

I would like to draw your attention to two problems I have with the high rise apartments.

1. FIRE RISK

When I worked in management at the Sydney Adventist Hospital 1972 – 1996 our evacuation area was the church and the surrounding green areas. If the apartments (first planned nine years ago,) are approved to be built, it will cause very serious risks from a wildfire for

- a. Hospital
- b. School
- c. Nursing Homes across the creek
- d. Local residents

If these three apartment blocks are built within meters of the school, there will be no room for a close and safe fire evacuation area for the several thousand people within the estate and the nearby community. If this school play area is established, people will not need to use their cars to evacuate and create greater traffic gridlock on Fox Valley Road, to reach a safe area if a wildfire starts.

2. SPORTS AREA FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

A full playing field for children is absolutely essential. They need the freedom to be able to see a green area, space enough run around on grass and not a concrete jungle. They need to have a choice in what sports they want to play and they need space for different sports. They should not be limited by high rise buildings taking up the play area, and being sent under a tunnel to their play area. Some children for many reasons will not like going through a tunnel and thus they will not participate. Play is so absolutely essential for all school children.

It is my hope that the Independent Planning Commission will recognize the over-development planned for the estate and the priority a sports area for the school is. This sports area would also become a nearby fire evacuation area.

The horrendous unprecedented fires around NSW today, influenced by Climate Change and the unpredictability of the weather and wild winds, is a serious wake up to the potential danger we are living with. The updated fire regulations released (Version 1 –September 2018 Information Release) may technically allow this development to pass. I hope that whatever decisions the Planning Commissioners make will take into serious consideration the rapidly changing fire risks all over New South Wales, visually evident today, and in particular, with this estate being completely surrounded by bush that is laden with fuel.

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