Anoulack Chanthivong MP

MEMBER FOR MACQUARIE FIELDS

General Manager
Campbelltown City Council
PO Box 57
CAMPBELLTOWN NSW 2560

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21 February 2018

Dear Lindy,

I write in reference to file number 3293/2017/DA-C. I note that 166-176 St Andrews Road Varroville is a parcel of land centrally located in the Scenic Hills.

I would like to reaffirm my consistent, long-held view and position advocating for the protection and preservation of Campbelltown's iconic Scenic Hills. This is a position shared by many others in our community, who have consistently and strongly opposed the development of this important and vital green open space corridor in Sydney's south west.

The Scenic Hills not only provides a unique and beautiful backdrop to the City of Campbelltown – it has major heritage significance and provides valuable open space for our growing community. The green 'lungs' of Campbelltown serve as an environmental buffer between Campbelltown and Liverpool – one that is more important than ever given the region's continued growth and sustained pressure from increasing urban overdevelopment.

For generations, the Scenic Hills has been protected and preserved by the Campbelltown community and it is my steadfast belief that this should not change.

I do not support the application (file number 3293/2017/DA-C) by the Catholic Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust to develop the land in St Andrews Road, Varroville. In fact, I would overwhelmingly support stronger protections for this land and our much-loved and revered Scenic Hills.

I have grave fears that this application for a cemetery and parklands on the subject land marks the beginning of the end for our Scenic Hills. That, over time, the rolling hills and green expanse that is so intrinsic to our community's environmental heritage and identity will be replaced with more tar, more concrete and more congestion as incremental development insidiously destroys the Scenic Hills.

The subject development application will unlock a tidal wave of new development applications across the Scenic Hills. It begs the question – what is next? Funeral parlours, a florist and retail outlets or perhaps even a retirement village or housing subdivision?

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This is why it is so important to reject the subject development application before it irreversibly changes the local landscape and we lose the Scenic Hills as we know it forever.

Campbelltown City Council has historically taken a strong stance when it comes to preserving our environmental heritage. I look forward to Council upholding its traditional position on this issue and doing all it can to protect the Scenic Hills now and into the future.

The ongoing protection of the subject land in Varroville and our Scenic Hills is vital. Anything less would be too little, and sadly, too late.

The community has fought long and hard to protect the Scenic Hills from development. Approving this development application would forever change the character and destroy the Scenic Hill's unique environmental heritage.

The Scenic Hills has always distinguished Campbelltown from other Sydney metropolitan areas and made our city unique. Therefore, this development application should be rejected in its entirety.

I would request a formal acknowledgement of my submission.

Yours sincerely,

Anoulack Chanthivong, MP Member for Macquarie Fields