

Dr. Solomon (Sam) Goldman

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr Brown,  
Project Support Officer  
Independent Planning Commission.

Re: Stevenson Library, The Scots College

I write to you, regretting that I cannot be present at the Public Meeting Scheduled for Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019. As a founding member of Concerned Scots Neighbours Inc (CSN Inc), I have been deeply involved over the past 9 years, with the Scots various Development Applications, both to Woollahra Council, State Planning and to the Land & Environment Court.

My reason for not attending is that I have just returned home from hospital, following open heart bypass operation, which took place on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2019. I have several weeks of rehabilitation before my strength will return. In fact I should not even be writing the submission.

But the Independent Planning Commission, NSW, wants to assess the feeling of the community that is affected by The Scots College and its activities, so I wish to express my feelings.

The fact that 51 objections to the Scots project were submitted to the State Planning Commission, must be a strong indication of how the community of Bellevue Hill feels. If we compare the number of objections submitted (1) for the Cranbrook School Development also in Victoria Rd, Bellevue Hill, a project similar in size and costing, for a school approximately 500m from Scots College, then we can see that

the feelings against the Scots development are 51 times greater than for Cranbrook. In fact one submission to the State Planning from Daintry Associates submitted on behalf of CSN Inc represents our total membership which is made up of 188 individuals and families, so that multiplies the objections exponentially. Added to this is an unspecified number of Scots parents that have approached me personally, who want to remain anonymous, for fear of repercussions on their children.

Our objections to any Scots development over the past 9 years is simply based on the traffic situation, we the residents in streets surrounding the college are exposed to. This traffic situation has been assessed by the Land & Environment Court and found to be dangerous because of poor road behavior by parents of Scots students. Nobody has ever asked why are Scots parents behaving so poorly. The answer is that Scots refuses to provide any alternatives, but the public streets for parents dropping off and picking up students, some as young as three years old. Parents have to share the street with local buses, a fleet of Scots school buses, residents cars, a large number of trade vehicles as well as the Council waste vehicles, delivery vehicles. In that environment parents have to attempt to cross streets, removing small children from the drivers side of the cars. It is only a matter of time when a serious accident will occur and that could involve a resident such as myself already in my eighties and affect not only me but my family for years to come, to say nothing of a student's parents and family.

Onsite parking and drop off is offered in most advanced schools today. Cranbrook is one of many examples in the Eastern Suburbs that provide such state of the times facilities. But Scots has refused to even consider it. I recall the following statements from the Headmaster Dr Lambert, "I will not have cars driving through the school playgrounds" and "I cannot raise money for carparks". The latter statement was made at a meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018, which CSN Inc had with Scots with regard to this development. The earlier statement resulted from a drive through drop off architecturally designed, offered by CSN Inc and

provided to Council for the kindergarten proposed at 19 Kambala Rd Bellevue Hill.

You may question what all this has to do with the proposed Stevenson Library. Well Sir, The Scots College which is made up of three campuses all within 80m of this Library's site, should be assessed as one entity. Any development of any part of the school affects the facilities of the whole area including much of Bellevue Hill surrounding the College.

In fact this Library, according to the Development presentation, states is to be encouraged to be used by the wider community. Surely the whole school population will have use of this facility, namely some two thousand plus students, added to this are a potential four thousand parents, as well as the afore stated wider community. Scots wants us and you to believe that will not require a single additional on site car park. Scots boasts about its use of the public streets as parking lots for its staff and students, in its item on " On Street Parking Facilities". It mentions Kambala Rd, having unrestricted parking. At pickup times of every day, the parents cars are illegally double parked on both sides of Kambala Road, waiting for their sons to walk up from the Victoria Rd campus. It leaves one lane available for through traffic, and a situation that is extraordinarily dangerous, as students cross this busy road between cars that are double parked.

The Scots College is in breach of Council codes in the number of onsite parking spots it is legally required to have according to if FSR and student numbers. It is short of some 180 onsite parking spots.

It is also in breach of the Council CAP for student numbers. The official Council CAP is for 1620 students to be accommodated on the total school grounds. Currently the school accommodates around 2020 students. Scots totally ignores Council's codes, Council demands, as well as the Land & Environment Court which refused to raise the Cap when Scots applied to increase the school numbers by 350. So in reality Scots is carrying on its business illegally and totally ignoring authorities and neighbours.

The Scots College is a for profit organization, run by a religious order The Presbyterian Church (NSW) Property Trust, and yet they run an illegal operation. I hate to think of the consequences of an insurance claim, either accident or fire or other, when they find out the school is breach of Council codes.

Scots is very happy to use the public facilities, for which it pays no rate Scots is very happy to receive Government subsidies for each of its students, even when it is prepared to spend \$25million plus on an obscene castle project, rather than spend its required obligation on traffic safety for its student's and for the neighbourhood, and so far they are being allowed to get away with this by the authorities, such as WMC and now the recommended approval by State Planning.

This project is obscene because a castle does not fit into the environment of Bellevue Hill.

This project is obscene because the student core of Scots is derived from multicultural background, most of whom do not relate to Scottish castles in the year 2019.

This project is obscene for the costs involved, when nothing is being spent on student safety on the roads surrounding the school.

Scots for over 20 years has deceived Council and residents, by claiming over and over again in all DAs that " No increase in pupil or staff numbers at the college is sought as part of the proposal, therefore, other than during the construction phase there will be no increase in traffic generation." This statement in various forms has been used in every DA for the past 20 years. In fact it is used so many times in this application that, it appears that Scots is making its point so vehemently that it makes me doubt its truthfulness.

Let me finish with a plea to you. Please do not approve this project without assuring that the school incorporates proper legally, (according to Council codes,) required onsite parking and onsite drop off traffic infrastructure.

Many Thanks for your patience in reading this submission. I have not the mind or strength to summarize this objection for easier reading.

Yours sincerely,

Sam Goldman