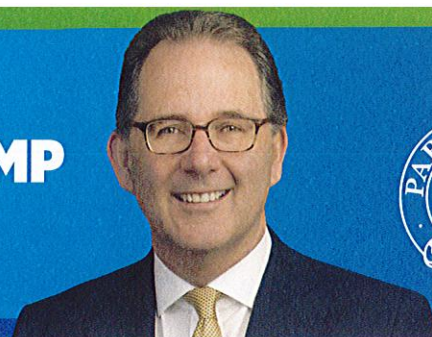


Alister Henskens sc MP

Member for Ku-ring-gai



1 October 2021

Commissioners Piton, Lewin and Grant
Office of the Independent Planning Commission NSW
Suite 15.02, Level 15, 135 King Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Commissioners Piton, Lewin and Grant

Re: Loreto Normanhurst School Redevelopment (Concept Proposal and Stage 1), 91-93 Pennant Hills Road Normanhurst (SSD-8996)

I refer to my previous submissions regarding the Loreto Normanhurst School (The School) Redevelopment dated 25 July 2019 and 8 March 2021 and to the public hearing on 27 September 2021.

In this further submission I would like to bring to your attention the ongoing concerns of the residents of the surrounding streets. While there are concerns that have been raised in relation to the streetscape and the removal of trees, the prevailing concerns pertain to traffic issues. Residents tell me that there already exist issues of access, parking and safety due to school traffic. Given the layout of these streets there is no other way for them to access their homes. Residents believe these current issues need to be addressed before increasing the student numbers at the school.

Despite amendments to The School's proposal, residents are unconvinced that traffic concerns have been adequately addressed and believe that there will be issues with traffic congestion and pedestrian safety. Their submissions suggest that the residents believe the following areas remain problematic:

- Traffic data and modelling
 - The analysis of current travel survey data is insufficient, underestimates the amount of traffic and is inadequate to base future modelling on
- Queuing for drop-off / pick-up
 - The number of cars able to queue within the grounds of The School was not based on the relevant standard, resulting in a higher number than will be practical
 - Queuing will not be entirely on school grounds and will continue to impact neighbouring streets with spill back and recirculation of vehicles
 - A trial of using an access street through The School resulted in chaos, long queues, frustration for drivers and was unsafe for pedestrians

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- Emergency Access
 - Emergency vehicle access is compromised at peak times
 - Residents have no alternate route to exit in an emergency
 - The nursing home on Mount Pleasant Ave and the proximity to bushland make emergencies a foreseeable risk
- The Green Plan
 - The Green Plan is aspirational and not practical
 - Pennant Hills Road is a major arterial road and not safe nor equipped to be used for children on bicycles
 - Encouraging onsite parking alleviates some of the parking concerns on neighbouring streets, however these cars still contribute to the traffic into and out of The School and the congestion in these streets
- Intersection of Mount Pleasant Ave and Pennant Hills Road
 - This intersection has poor sight lines due to a tall brick fence. This is unsafe both for vehicles and for pedestrians
 - Making this a Left Turn Only intersection during peak times will result in pushing the traffic congestion to other local streets, such as Normanhurst Ave which is already congested with a pick-up / drop-off zone during peak times for Normanhurst Public School. Additionally it will slow the clearing of Mount Pleasant Ave and extend the length of time that congestion remains
 - Signage alone will be insufficient to address these issues
 - A trial of using an access street through The School resulted in queues along Mount Pleasant Ave over 300m long

A suggestion that residents support is the installation of traffic signals at the intersection of Mount Pleasant Ave and Pennant Hills Road, allowing vehicles to safely turn both right and left out of Mount Pleasant Ave, easing congestion not only in that street but also neighbouring streets, as well as ensuring the safety of pedestrians.

Thank you for the opportunity to convey the concerns of residents near The School. I trust that these will be taken into account to ensure safety of vehicles, pedestrians and the community in the local area.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alister Henskens', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alister Henskens SC MP