

# **Alterations & additions to the Stevenson Library Building, Scots College**

## **SSD 17\_8922**

**Professor John B. Ziegler**  
**Notes for public meeting, 17/6/2019**

Thank you for the opportunity for me to speak briefly this morning as a concerned resident of Bellevue Hill. I am not actually a direct neighbour of any of the Scots College precincts; my concerns really relate to my professional background as a medical practitioner whose career working at Sydney Children's Hospital and the School of Women's and Children's Health at UNSW has been devoted to the health and welfare of children and adolescents.

The background as I understand it is that Scots College has consistently failed to limit the enrolments at the Victoria Road campus to legally required safe levels and has consistently failed to implement measures to achieve safety in traffic movements and parking by parents, students and staff despite making commitments to do so.

The present application, by increasing the College floorspace, would, if approved, inevitably lead to a further increase in student numbers, already in excess of permitted levels, but without addressing current safety issues. It would in fact exacerbate currently unsafe traffic and parking issues.

My concerns therefore are twofold:

1. I am worried that the current excessive enrolments and lack of proper traffic management result in danger for the children attending the school, as well of course as for other children and adults using the busy roads in and around the Scots Bellevue Hill precincts.
2. I am also concerned about the messages being sent to students. I am referring to the behaviour of the College leadership in its failure to implement planning requirements or to correct the safety issues. Their arrogance is simply breathtaking. What sort of message is being sent to students by this educational institution which should be leading by example in its responsibility to nurture the development of community conscious, responsible, well-rounded future adults? I am concerned that instead they will learn to ignore the well-being of their neighbours and fellow citizens. Instead, they will come to have a well-developed sense of entitlement and the belief that, when it suits them, they can stare down authority with little sense of any personal consequences.

Accordingly, if the Commission is inclined to approve the application, the safest outcome is for it be dealt with as part of a master plan for the Scots Bellevue Hill properties rather than for it to go ahead now, exacerbating rather than solving the current problems.

Thank you