Community and Stakeholder Engagement Report

Voluntary Planning Agreement 723-727 Warringah Road, Forestville

Impact level: Four

Report date: 12 January 2021

Contents

1. Summary ..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
1.1. Who we engaged 2
1.2. How we engaged 2
2. Background 3
3. Engagement objectives ..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
4. Engagement approach 3
6. Findings 3
7. Appendix: Full summary of community responses (verbatim) 5

Project Title	Voluntary Planning Agreement 723-727 Warringah Road, Forestville
Impact Level	4
Stage(s)	1 of 1
Report Period	16 November to 21 December 2020
Version	1.0
Status	Final

1.1. Who we engaged

Total engaged	1,141	Total submissions	4

1.2. How we engaged

Have Your Say	Visitors: 1,141	Visits: 1,272	Av. time onsite: 55 seconds
Print media and collateral	Letter drop to residents: 1		Distribution: 63
Electronic direct mail (EDM)	Community Engagement newsletter: 2 Council eNews: 1		Distribution: 20,000 Distribution: 150 000

2. Background

A Development Application (DA 2018/0697) was lodged in 2018 to build a childcare centre on the site of 723, 725 and 727 Warringah Road Forestville.

To safely access the childcare centre, the DA proposed to construct a lane within the public road reserve to slow cars entering the childcare centre. This would require the relocation of the existing footpath onto private land. During the assessment of the DA, Council's Traffic Engineer identified that a land dedication was required to accommodate the 'deceleration' lane and maintain an appropriate Council road reservation.

Subsequently, on 3 May 2019, Council received an offer to enter into a Voluntary Planning Agreement (the 'VPA offer') at 723, 725 and 727 Warringah Road, Forestville. The VPA offer proposed to dedicate 153m^2 of land in front of the proposed development site to Council free of charge. This land is intended to contain a 3-metre-wide shared path with landscaping, a driveway and a pedestrian island.

3. Engagement approach

Community and stakeholder engagement for the Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA), 723-727 Warringah Road, Forestville was conducted over a five-week period, from 16 November to 21 December 2020. The engagement was planned, implemented and reported in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Matrix (2017).

The objective of the public consultation was to present the information regarding the proposed VPA in an accessible manner and provide the community with an opportunity to comment. The VPA engagement is concerned with the community benefit gained from the proposed provision of a shared path with landscaping, a driveway and a pedestrian island. Any comments regarding the development of the childcare and its impacts on traffic etc are not related to this project and should be directed through the Development Application process.

Project details, exhibition documents, a submission form and links to the Council Report and Development Application were included on the Council's Have Your Say page. It provided a portal for users to visit, find information to support their engagement and offer feedback.

Feedback was primarily collected through an online submission form with email and written responses also accepted.

The project was included in the Community Engagement and Council's e-newsletters to reach the broader community. With a distribution list of over 20,000 and 150,000 respectively, these channels increased awareness of the project and drove traffic to the project landing-page and essential documentation.

We sent 63 letters to property owners and occupiers in the vicinity of the proposal to notify them of the VPA and installed notification signs on site.

4. Findings

The Your Say project page attracted 1,141 unique visitors and four submissions during the exhibition period.

The key theme across submissions was a concern that traffic flow may be impacted, and congestion may increase in the local streets if the Childcare Centre was constructed.

Submissions also indicated concerned about a build-up of cars entering and exiting the childcare centre impeding the traffic flow on Warringah Road.

The potential increased risk of vehicle, bike and pedestrian accidents on the proposed shared path as line of sight would be reduced or obscured by vehicles entering the Centre from the “access slip lane” was also raised.

5. Appendix A: Verbatim submissions

Number	Submission
1	I am writing to raise concerns of the increased risk of vehicle, bike and pedestrian accidents from the Voluntary Planning Agreement at 723,725 and 727 Warringah Road, Forestville. The concerns are: 1. The estimated 100 metre line of sight will be reduced and either partially or fully obscured by vehicles entering the Centre from the access slip lane. The reduced line of sight will make decision making more complex and difficult for safe entry into 70 KM per multi-lane traffic flow. The knock on effect may cause vehicles to queue in the Centre again contribution to impatient and rushed decision making. 2. Customers parking to disembark/embark their children from their vehicles in the Centre will forced queuing of vehicles in the slip lane. The concern is the queuing in the Centre access lane will obscure line of sight for exiting vehicles, cause vehicles to wait on the footpath (placing pedestrians and cyclists at increased risk of harm) and in busy times the Centre vehicles queue spilling onto Warringah Rd. 3. The increased congestion from left turns on Darley Street (LoS F) in the AM peak will contribute to impatient drivers and parents making to poor driving decision when entering Warringah Rd. The Aimsun modelling estimates only addition 47 left turns in AM peak from Darley St. Another concern is the proposed line of sight of 100 metres meets requirements for a 70km/hr road – there is no mention if this is suitable for multi-lane road as per the Austroads Guide to Traffic Management - Part 6 recommends a different approach for multi-lane roads based on traffic volumes and flows. Extract RMS response Sight distances from the proposed vehicular crossing to vehicles on Warringah Road are to be in accordance with the Austroads 'Guide to Traffic Engineering Practice, Part 5: Intersections at Grade, Section 6.2 – Sight Distance' and AS 2890. This is not mentioned in DA. Extract Austroads Extract from Austroads Guide to Traffic Management - Part 6 - Advance warning signs may be necessary where there is a high approach speed or where approach sight distance is limited. A suggested way forward to ensure safety of the area and maintain consistent traffic flows may be for additional signage to be built on Warringah Rd to inform users of entering/exiting vehicles ahead, lane markings on Warringah Rd to indicate access lane ahead and linking the traffic signals at Darley St with Centre exit. To reduce the risks of queuing within the Centre the development of a parking application that informs customers of the most suitable parking space (reducing wait time and possible queuing; if there are no spaces available

	provide advice to go direct to set down, park else where or loop through Forestville. In closing the Aimsun modelling Level of Service is not a safety assessment, for the benefit of all may the proposed VPA be reviewed by road safety subject matter experts.
2	I am dead against this development being on a very busy main road. We already have two pre schools in the vicinity. 3 mornings a week I leave home between 7.45 and 8.15am. The congestion can be quite severe and it can take 10 minutes to progress along Darley Road from [redacted] where I live and then i can wait up to 5 minutes for the lights to change so I can get onto Warringah Road. Where will the cars come from to get to the development if not down Darley Rd and then where will they go after drop down. They will go up Melwood and into Bushland to exit into Darley. Bushland is congested already with cars parked on one side. Please reconsider allowing this development on a very busy arterial road.
3	-Entry and exit into daycare centres and schools in Darley Street and Violet Ave Forestville are already causing backups of traffic and delays for residents exiting Forestville either via Darley St AND Starkey St onto Warringah Rd. A further buildup of traffic of cars entering and exiting the proposed new daycare laneway will add further to this mess. -There is already a development at Darley and Violet that will add significantly to traffic congestion and dangers for pedestrians using this local area. The area does not need more impediments to the quality of life in Forestville. -Will the proposed "gift" of land and laneway actually mean that traffic along Warringah Road will not be impeded by cars slowing to enter and exit the laneway at an already congested area??? Has modelling of the impact of this development on the area and traffic been done?? By an independent person? -The reasons that this land gift is a benefit to the area are flimsy at best. The developer wants their development to proceed and this is their way forward. -If approved, this laneway should be constructed BEFORE building works commence to minimise the impact on Forestville residents by construction vehicles etc
4	Whilst I generally agree with the increase and improvement in amenities for our residents, I must ask for a review of the projected increased vehicular impact on the immediate streets around the proposed development. 1 - Whilst providing a “slow down lane” would be seen to overcome the issue of traffic impingement for Westbound traffic along Warringah Rd during the mornings, there would still be an amount of “hesitation and caution” that would impact on traffic flow. This, after Warringah Rd has had millions spent, on removing bottlenecks….bit of a backwards step. 2 - With a projected 146 child care places envisaged, it would be reasonable to predict say 80 car movements in the morning alone, to drop off children. These movements would be during, or just on either side of pre school and public school drop offs, and of course, residents trying to get to work. Already, the Library car park and surrounding streets are operating above their limitations. An additional 80 vehicular movements would surely add to the congestion apparent already, every weekday morning.

	3 – Let's just say, people have dropped their children off at the proposed child care, ….where do they go from there? Continue West across the Roseville Bridge? I suspect the majority would turn left into Melwood Ave, and again, left into Bushland Ave, giving these parents / care givers access to the shopping centre, or back East along Warringah Rd via the Darley St traffic lights. Locals will unanimously tell your that the traffic lights at Darley and the Highway, are already inadequate during peak 7:30am to 9:30am, and again in the afternoon for 2:30pm to 6pm. 4 – Bushland Ave. This small roadway, only 7.3m wide, caters for the 15 residential blocks, and connects the RSL, Bowling Club, Melwood Oval etc with the Forestville Shops. It also carrys a local bus route running east only. The road is already overrun with vehicle movements, and the cars parked along the one side allowable, regularly have their drivers rear view mirrors damaged. Additional vehicle movements would further frustrate drivers and locals alike, and disturb the current residents. 5 – Darley St. This is one of the two main egress roads for all of Killarney Heights and the southern side of Forestville. Again, extra vehicular movements would be amplified due to the already congested traffic lights, operating beyond their capability during peak times. Cars queued from the Highway to past Cannons Parade are a daily scene as residents try to get to work. This would block any cars trying to exit Bushland Ave…..and when a bus is there…..well everyone exercises patience. 4 – Afternoons and early evenings again suffer the same traffic congestions. Darley is inundated with parents picking up, and trying to get back onto the Highway. The traffic lights are trying to cope, as more cars and people flood into the shopping precinct. Bushland Ave is at bursting point as cars pull into driveways to allow oncoming traffic to pass. Increased cars due to pickups from the proposed child care will only add to the throng. In closing, any approval for the development of a childcare center on 723, 725 and 727 Warringah Rd, must have a realistic and resident approved plan. It is essential that our Northern Beaches "lifestyle" is preserved. Our local roads in Forestville, are as important as those in Manly, Palm Beach, and Newport etc. and therefore careful consideration must be given to impacted residents.