

QUEENS PARK PRECINCT PUBLIC MEETING

12 August 2019

commencing 7pm Waverley Library Theatrette

Convenors: Peter Cohen, Simon Swifte
Apologies: Councillors Keenan and Masselos
Councillors present: Mayor John Wakefield

Moriah College proposed expansion

- Michael Ahrens explained that Moriah College is lodging a State Significant Development Application to redevelop and expand the school at a cost of over \$20m.
- On 18 June, three Committee members attended a briefing by URBIS Engagement, the company delivering a community engagement program on behalf of Moriah.
- An MCCC meeting was held on 26 July but no further information was provided at that meeting. Moriah Board has apparently not yet signed off on the plans.
- The College has letterboxed all Queens Park residents outlining the proposal and a group of concerned residents, led by Andrew Stewart, has also letterboxed residents to encourage participation in the process.
- The meeting was shown the letter that the Committee has already sent to Moriah, thanking them for the briefing and expressing major concerns about the proposal, especially the 20% increase in student numbers. This increase would be accompanied by a comparable increase in staff numbers and a substantial increase in traffic, parking and noise problems.
- The letter was also sent to the Council, URBIS, Ward Councillors and the Department of Planning and Environment.
- While the Development Application has not yet been lodged, as part of the process, the College has sought the *Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs)*.
- The Committee has sought traffic counts from Council during school term and during the holidays, in streets that are most impacted by school traffic – York Rd, Baronga Ave, Queens Park Rd, Denison St and Alt St. It was suggested that Ashton St be included.
- Council has responded saying there is no urgency to undertake traffic counts at this stage.
- The Mayor explained that while Council doesn't have any formal say in SSDAs, Government will usually seek comments from Council and the RMS.
- Council recognises the traffic issues and that the streets are already beyond capacity.
- Roma Gillam pointed out that Council had made a submission to State Government when the College submitted the development application for the Junior School directly to the State Government.
- It was suggested that the Council liaise with the State Government at the earliest opportunity. Mayor emailed the Planning Director on the spot.
- David Plaister said that the school is at a tipping point. It is at maximum capacity.
- Andrew Stewart provided additional information about the proposal.
- A 20% increase means 340 additional students and associated increase in staff numbers.
- Two four storey buildings are proposed
- It was said that an increase in the use of the school in the evenings and weekends is likely as well as an increase in traffic and student parking in the area (against school rules),
- Andrew has set up an email address: QueensParkResidents@outlook.com

The following motion was carried unanimously:

1. *The meeting of Queens Park Precinct residents strongly opposes the expansion of Moriah College as it considers the school to already be at maximum capacity.*
 2. *Precinct residents seek the engagement of Waverley Council with the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment prior to the issuing of the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs).*
- Other Moriah news – complaints register in place.

Mayor's report

- Mural at Bondi Beach was temporary and approved by Council officers.
- Objections were received from some Councillors and 3 residents.
- Mayor didn't want to censor art. A curatorial process not involving Councillors, has been established.
- Somebody has whitewashed the mural and this will remain. Only obscene language will be removed.
- Episode blown up by media.
- Sculptures by the Sea controversy has nothing to do with the pathway as suggested in media.
- The event has been operating without a licence for 29 years and Council tried to put one in place, preferably for 5 years. A one year free licence has been offered.

Centennial Park Report - presented by Michael Ahrens

- Still waiting for approval for Queens Park cycleway on southern side of park
- \$13m to be spent on an educational centre in Centennial Park. Michael commented that he told them that he doesn't support more buildings being erected in park.

Bondi Junction Cycleway

- Construction will commence in August. Residents shown an overview of the seven stages of construction, Available on Council's website.

Waverley Architectural Mapping Project

- Peter Cohen explained that the Project is ongoing and that Council has developed a more comprehensive spreadsheet to identify property characteristics. Residents can still volunteer to participate.

West Bondi Junction proposed development update – no further information is available at this time.

Minutes from 13 May meeting

- Now confirmed on the Committee – Simon Swifte as co-convenor
- Michael Ahrens, Ian Barber, Daniel Bando – Committee members

Next meeting: 11 November 2019