

OFFICE OF VERITY FIRTH MP

Member for Balmain

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Ms Paula Poon
Director, Panel Secretariat
Sydney East Joint Regional Planning Panel
GPO Box 3415
Sydney NSW 2001

COPY

Thursday 07 October, 2010

Dear Ms Poon,

Opposition to Development Application - D / 2010 / 408 - Annandale Woolworths

I write on behalf of local residents in opposition to the DA lodged with Leichhardt Council for the construction of a Woolworths supermarket and multi-unit dwelling at 69-73 Parramatta Rd, Annandale. I understand that the Sydney East Joint Regional Planning Panel will be considering this application at a later date and would appreciate the Panel's consideration of the following.

I have conducted an online survey of local residents regarding this issue. Almost 500 local residents have taken part so far, with the majority opposed to the development, or holding deep concerns regarding the safety, traffic and community impacts of such a proposal.

I have provided the results of the survey below:

Do you support a Woolworths on the corner of Parramatta Rd and Trafalgar St, Annandale?

Yes absolutely - it would be really convenient!	11.6%
I like the idea as long as there are appropriate traffic and safety measures.	18.0%
I have deep concerns about the location and traffic.	16.3%
Absolutely not - it is not appropriate for our local area.	54.1%

It is worth noting that the overwhelming majority of respondents to the survey live in the Annandale area and many live in close vicinity to the proposed development. It is also worth noting that opposition to the development increases amongst those residents closest to the site.

I have also received a great deal of written correspondence in opposition to the DA which details the particular concerns of residents about the harmful effects of such a development on the Annandale village.

Increased traffic

Many local residents are concerned by the potential traffic impacts that such a development would have on local streets already under strain from congestion. The proposed car park, which would cater for more than 100 vehicles, will encourage private vehicles and trucks to use residential streets such as Albion St and Trafalgar St, as well as putting greater strain on Booth St and Johnston St. Clearly this could have significant negative impact for local residents with increased noise and congestion.

Many residents are also concerned by the safety implications of such increased traffic. They note that the development is in close proximity to two schools as well as a child care centre. They are concerned that an increase in traffic could pose a significant threat to children and other pedestrians who are currently use cross these streets on a daily basis.

Increased noise and air pollution

The proposed trading hours of the supermarket are 7am to midnight, 7 days a week. The DA also proposes after hours operating between midnight and 7am, 7 days a week for the purposes of packing and stocking shelves.

Clearly, such operation could have significant impact on local residents with increased light and noise pollution from the facility, as well as vehicles accessing the site at all hours of the day. Despite their proximity to Parramatta Rd, the surrounding residential streets enjoy a high level of peace and quiet which could be disrupted by the supermarket's operation.

Inappropriate design

Many local residents have taken issue with the design and proposed built form of the supermarket. They rightly note the beautiful heritage buildings of Annandale and argue that the modern 'brown box' proposed for the site is out of keeping with the local area.

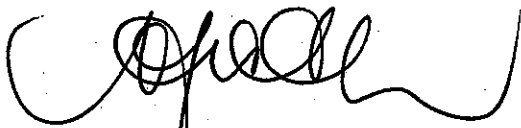
Impact of local stores and community

I know from speaking with Annandale residents that one of the things they most cherish about the area is the village-like feel and independent local shopping strip. You only have to visit Johnston St and Booth St on a Saturday morning to appreciate how charming this part of the world really is.

Residents rightly note that Annandale is already well-serviced with several supermarkets nearby in Leichhardt, Broadway, Marrickville, Pyrmont and Balmain. It is understandable that many local residents are deeply concerned about the effects of a new major supermarket on their community and believe that it will negatively impact on local businesses and the relaxed, friendly feel of the area.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my deep concerns about this proposal on behalf on local residents. I would appreciate your earnest consideration of these concerns and trust that you will take them into consideration as part of the Joint Regional Planning Panel's deliberations.

Yours sincerely,



Verity Firth MP
Member for Balmain