



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND URBAN RENEWAL

Ms Caroline Le Couteur MLA (Chair), Mr Mark Parton MLA (Deputy Chair)

Mr Michael Petterson MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into Planning for the Surgical Procedures, Interventional Radiology and Emergency Centre (SPIRE) and the Canberra Hospital campus and immediate surrounds.

Submission Number: 21- Manthena

Date Authorised for Publication: 26 February 2020

The Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal
Legislative Assembly for the ACT GPO Box 1020
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Ms Jongsma,

I (Narasimha Raju Manthena) resident of [REDACTED] submit the below for your consideration into the **Inquiry into Planning for the Surgical Procedures, Interventional Radiology and Emergency Centre (SPIRE)** and the Canberra Hospital campus and immediate surrounds.

I want to bring to the committee's attention that I am from a non-english speaking background and I tried my best to draft the below information in plain english and apologies for any grammatical mistakes.

Firstly, I want to thank the committee for accepting to conduct this inquiry after receiving petitions from the wider Canberra community.

Myself and all of the local community welcome governments plans to invest in health care to provide world class quality treatment to all Canberra residents and patients from the surrounding areas.

Delivering such a huge project requires rigorous analysis and transparent consultation and I believe both key requirements have been ignored in selecting the current SPIRE site.

Previous governments have spent lot of time and money in planning the expansion of Canberra hospital facilities to meet the population growth and multiple sites have been announced previously which were an outcome of rigorous analysis and with a decent and transparent consultation with the local community.

Announcement of the SPIRE project was done in late 2018 but as a resident the first consultation was only held in September 2019 after the SPIRE site announcement. I would like to bring the following to the committee's attention in inquiring the planning of SPIRE project

1. SPIRE site selection without a developed Master plan
2. Minister Stephen Smith repeatedly announcing that this site is not negotiable, without opportunity to review and analysis.
3. Traffic management plans, risk assessments, noise assessments on the surrounding areas, environmental affects, community safety, none of these studies have been performed before the site selection.
4. Poor consultation with the local community.
5. Non-disclosure of helicopter path, non-disclosure of any plans to minimise noise that affect the school and surrounding houses.eg: Helicopter landing, AC plants, generators, pumps etc
6. Rushing the whole process with out providing adequate opportunity for the concept and proposal to be discussed in the public forum.
7. Planning access to the SPIRE without even considering the effect on school students who cannot safely participate in the current government's initiative Ride and Walk to school .

8. After completion in 2024 SPIRE only accommodates 148 beds which is just 1/3rd of originally planned a decade ago.

Recommendations for the committee's consideration:

1. **Responsible body must finalise or develop an Master plan which is approved by the committee or concerned authority before starting the SPIRE project.**
2. **Plan access to the SPIRE from the 2 Major roads Yamba and Hindmarsh, no access and no additional traffic from Gilmore Crescent (School), Palmer street streets into the hospital campus.**
3. **In school hours most surrounding streets avoid Gilmore crescent and use Dennis st to access Hindmarsh and Yamba drive.**
4. **Avoid any emergency vehicles, or patients accessing the SPIRE via Palmer, as it a narrow road and in peak hours navigating from and into Dennis st intersection with Palmer st is a nightmare (Blind spot).**
5. **Develop foot paths to safely accommodate school kids, Disabled users, and hospital staff.**
6. **The new SPIRE design must consider safety of the Garran primary school students and residents in surrounding streets.**
7. **Compensate adjacent resident for loss of their property values, impacts on their liveability.**
8. **Taking the age into consideration the buildings selected for demolition can have asbestos and proper care must be taken.**
9. **Compensate surrounding residents for the impacts during demolition.**
10. **Government must provide double glazed windows and other industrial standard inclusions to minimise noise impacts on surrounding houses.**
11. **Evaluation of the existing Hospital road to confirm it with stands the new traffic.**
12. **SPIRE must be designed as environmentally friendly green building.**

Photographic evidence below for your consideration:

1. Proposed access from palmer unsafe for kids going to school and hospital staff who walk to work



Proposed entrance from palmer st and foot paths used by school kids, residents and hospital staff (opp angle of the above pic)



2. Future Demolition and construction site impacts school kids walking and pick up and drop down users



3. Blind spot Dennis St and Palmer Intersection (towards Hindmarsh)



4. Proposed entrance from Palmer st 60 metres Dennis St and Palmer Intersection (towards Gilmore)



5. Streets that mostly use Dennis St to avoid Gilmore crescent in peak times.

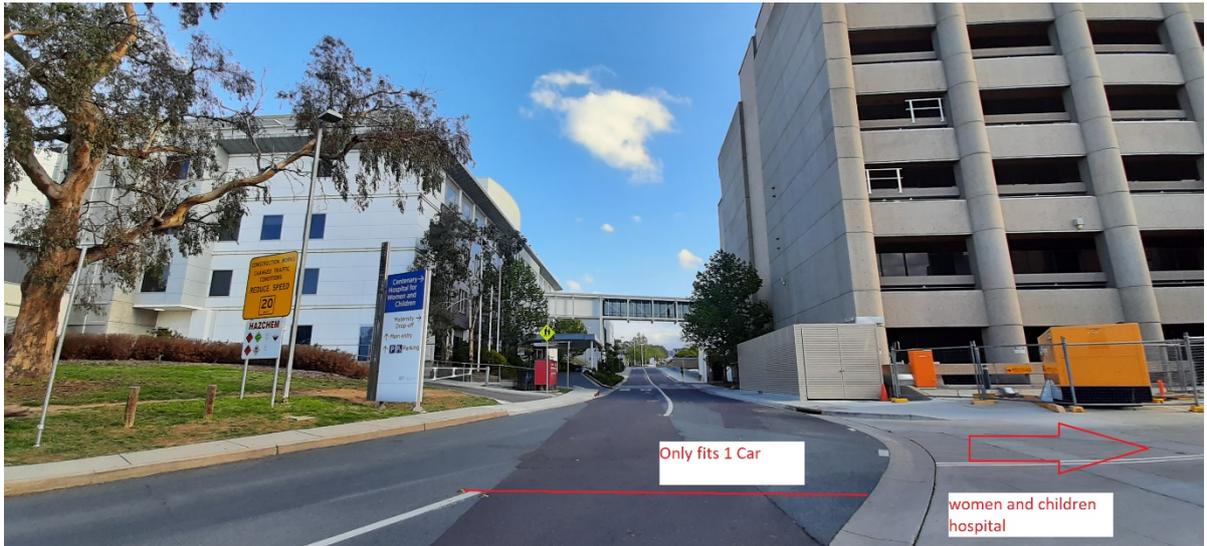
6. Current pedestrian crossing into school main entrance approx. 50-55 metres from Hospital road and Gilmore crescent. Providing access to Emergency is a risk that has to be considered

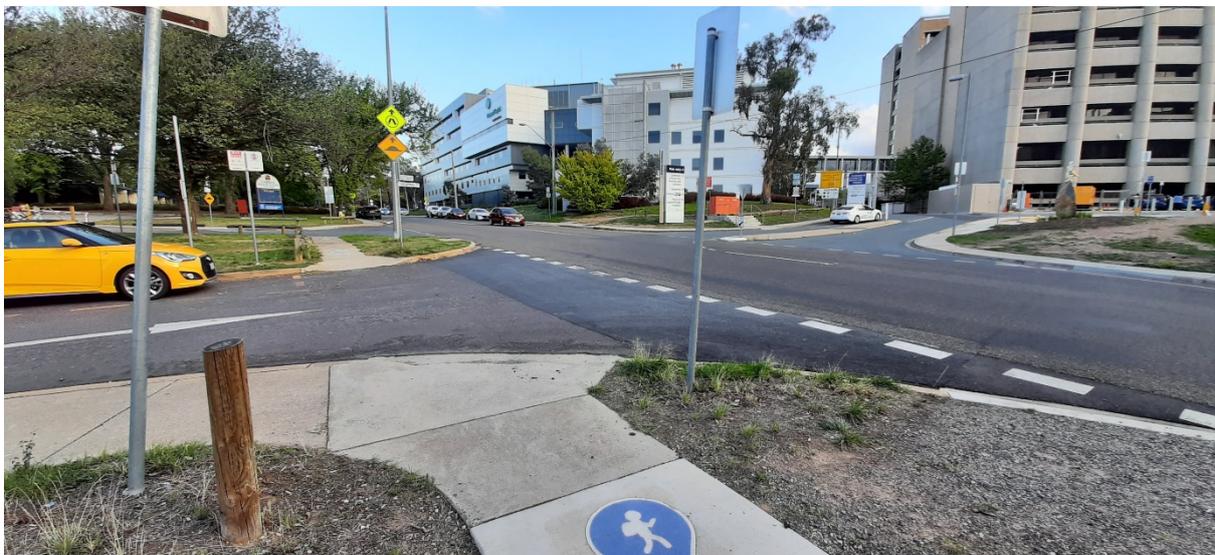


7. Current intersection of Hospital road and Gilmore crescent is congested and kids struggle to cross roads when walking to school



8. Hospital road currently gives access to Women and child , National hospital, ANU and main entrance, currently only a single car fits each way at the intersection of Gilmore crescent (will increase approx. 400cm after crossing National private hospital entrance) until the proposed Building 5 which is for demolition opp to that is the main entrance with current pick up points and taxi stand





Opinion:

Most of the residents residing in Garran have or are working in the hospital, some residents are residing since the construction of the hospital started and from the day the first brick was laid and such a knowledgeable community was kept in dark and consultation process was very poorly handled.

I doubt the site selection was not an outcome of a fair process through stake holder consultation, rigorous analysis risk , traffic and safety assessments that have to be taken for a project that is going to cost \$500 million + tax payers money, and the current government is rushing to start building a health facility to show that they are committed to their election promise before they go to election in 2020.

I strongly believe this project going ahead as the way it is currently going will be a total waste of the taxpayer's money with minimum benefits to the public of Canberra and surrounding regions and will create chaos for the local residents.

Conclusion:

I trust that this committee will inquire the site selection with integrity and make recommendations to the current plan and push for a Master plan which will deliver a much better and bigger Canberra Hospital which will provide the growing population of Canberra with highest quality health care and create a safer and pleasant environment for all of the hospital neighbours.

Thanks and Regards

Narasimha Raju Manthena

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