



A BINATIONAL SCHOOL

TELOPEA PARK SCHOOL

LYCÉE FRANCO-AUSTRALIEN DE CANBERRA

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Hanna Jaireth
Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Planning and Environment
Legislative Assembly for the ACT
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Hanna

**Re: Inquiry into:
Draft Variation to the Territory Plan No 238
Macquarie Hotel Redevelopment, Section 27 Barton.**

On behalf of the Telopea Park School Parents & Citizens Association, I submit the following concerns that we have with the Draft Variation to the Territory Plan No 238.

Telopea Park School teaches over 600 children from Kindergarten through to Year 10 in the combined French/Australian curriculum (Lycée Franco-Australien de Canberra) and over 500 children in the normal ACT curriculum 'in-area' High School for Years 7 to 10. Students belong to over 800 families from all parts of Canberra.

As our school is adjacent to Section 27 (the Macquarie Hotel Redevelopment Site), we are very concerned about the impact of the proposed development on the school and our children. The school grounds are bounded by Telopea Park West on one side and NSW Crescent on all other sides. Section 27 is bounded in part by NSW Crescent and by streets that are used to gain access to our school. We are very greatly concerned that the proposed development will bring even higher levels of traffic and long stay parking into the vicinity of our school.

There are already major problems with traffic around the school, particularly cars and trucks using NSW Crescent and adjacent streets as a short-cut between Canberra Ave and Brisbane Ave. Despite road signs indicating a school zone, this traffic is often reckless, well beyond the 40 km/h speed limit, and poses a significant danger to children entering and leaving the school grounds. The proposed development will only increase traffic volumes and the level of danger for our children. After years of discussion with Roads ACT about these traffic problems, virtually the only outcome has been the introduction of any extra school crossing on NSW Crescent. That is, two

posts with orange flags. The “Draft Section Master Plan for Section 27” ignores the traffic problems in this area and is silent on possible improvements.

Over the last ten years, the area around our school (and the Macquarie Hotel redevelopment site) has changed drastically. Over ten major office and residential buildings have been developed bringing thousands of new daytime users of the streets around our school. Long stay parking on these streets is now extending almost to Telopea Park West, causing great difficulty for teachers, parents, students, and volunteers trying to access the school before, during, and after school. The proposed development will significantly worsen this situation. Section 2.2.4 of the “Draft Section Master Plan for Section 27” mentions use of short-stay parking on surrounding streets to improve “residential amenity”. This change will see the long-stay commuter parking move even more to adjacent streets, i.e. those around and leading to our school.

As well as these problems, during the actual building period there will be hundreds of trucks, semi-trailers, construction vehicles and construction workers using this already congested area. This problem is completely ignored in the “Draft Section Master Plan for Section 27” but will be a living nightmare for our school and our children.

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