

I can speak on behalf of Minmi residents that they are angry and shocked at the destruction of the bush and the horse paddocks in Minmi East to create what looks like a mining site, completely changing the lay of the land so that it is unrecognisable.

Now you are asking us to put up with years more of destruction of our environment, noise and dust pollution with this latest DA.

**After seeing the damage to Back creek and smaller waterways, the breaches, the impact on our lives we have no confidence in a good outcome and have grave concerns about the sheer size of what we have experienced as greedy development.**

It is already not consistent with the general terms of approval of the concept plan of 2013.

There has been inadequate community consultation for this DA evidenced by the number of people who knew nothing of it or did not understand the location, size and scale. The DA is Woodford Street but the actual street in the area is known to residents as Railway Street causing more confusion.

## **VILLAGE**

We are all passionate about preserving and protecting the built heritage character of our historic village through landscape separation. **We want a green buffer around Minmi from new residential developments.** We have a number of heritage buildings and a heritage cemetery; three sites have been put on the National Trust Register.

Part of the foundations of the historic John Brown's Garden House is still there.

**The Concept Plan in 2010 provided for a Garden House Park on that land. The future use of this land has been changed on the present plan leaving it vulnerable to development.**

## **WILDLIFE**

If this DA proceeds it will create an increased threat to already impacted species. Where do they go?

**The president of Hunter Wildlife has informed me that koalas live in the area of Minmi bush.** Two were found dead when kicked by a horse behind the hotel in 2019 with a third sitting on a fence post and relocated back into the bush.

In August this year a male koala was found behind Brookfield Road off Minmi Road hit by a car and in October another was hit and killed near the lights on the Link Road at Woodford Street.

Three healthy koalas found at Stockrington were checked and released.

The koala population in Qld, NSW and ACT was listed as endangered under the EPBC Act in Feb, 2022.

At a time when critical loss of wildlife is so concerning, especially koalas, they need to be considered in regard to this DA

**Fauna have also been found in various streets including Railway Street, Reservoir and Minmi Roads.**

**Minmi Road is a killer for wallabies. Six swamp wallabies killed in the last six months.**

**An Adult female powerful owl killed in May this year near the tennis courts on Woodford Street.**

NC Ecological report states: -

23 threatened florae recorded in or close to the site as well as

46 Threatened birds including Regent Honeyeater

19 threatened mammals, 5 herpetofauna, and 36 migratory birds including marine, terrestrial and wetland species.

It also states that two threatened ecological communities to be directly impacted.

The destruction of native bushland and large numbers of mature trees for this development contradicts these statements.

How can cramming thousands of homes on to mainly small allotments be the way forward in this present age. This development is a threat to already impacted species

**Previously zoned green spaces on the original plans have been changed to R3 medium residential. People need open spaces is ENVIRONMENTAL VANDALISM.**

At the COP 26 Last year in Glasgow 144 countries including Australia signed a convention to strengthen shared efforts to conserve forests and stop land clearing by 2030. Surely this is an important consideration when deciding the outcome of this DA.

**WE NEED BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION OF THIS LAND NOT ENVIRONMENTAL VANDALISM!**

## **WATERWAYS**

The Hexham waterway to which the water from Minmi flows is of international Significance as habitat for migratory birds.

**If the developers damage or destroy the catchment waterways of Minmi Creek, Back creek smaller waterways with run off that has fertilisers and detergents from development they are actually destroying the wetlands as well.**

We have already seen Back creek narrowed and changed.

The Ramsar Convention considers the habitat feeding into wetlands of world importance.

## **TRAFFIC CONGESTIONS ON LOCAL ROADS**

TRANSPORT NSW OPPOSES THE DEVELOPMENT AS IT FAILS TO DEMONSTRATE that the safety and ongoing operation of the classified roads will not be adversely affected by the development.

**MINMI's single lane ROADS CANNOT HANDLE THE AMOUNT OF TRAFFIC NOW. During morning and afternoon peak times there are huge delays and bottlenecks. It can take 30 minutes or more to travel from Woodford Street lights to the Anglican College in Fletcher.**

Increased traffic noise in Woodford Street and the end of Bell Street is already distressing with trucks using the road to cut through to other areas. Noise from the freeway at night-time can disrupt sleep during certain atmospheric conditions. We don't need more traffic.

As well, Woodford Street footpaths are also very busy, people walking for exercise, children walking to school, to bus stops, the café and parks.

**In recent years seven housing estate have been developed between Maryland and Minmi. The roads have not changed and now this DA combined with Fletcher Green will add thousands more homes with no infrastructure and no adequate upgrade of the roads.**

A traffic Impact Assessment was amended in Sept. 2020 but is out of date. Large scale housing has been built since them in Fletcher, Outlook and Sanctuary which would not have been taken into consideration for current road conditions.

Both Minmi Road and the Link Road are included in media traffic reports morning and afternoon

#### **INCRDEASED BUSH FIRE DANGER**

**With the impact of changed global weather conditions causing catastrophic bushfires we fear for the residents of these thousands of future new homes in Minmi who are even closer to the huge forested area.**

Strong winds in 2014 affected power lines and caused a serious bushfire in nearby Black Hill. Minmi residents as well as Cameron Park and Fletcher received emergency calls to evacuate immediately. Some stayed to fight, on roofs with hoses as embers rained down. Many others left. The road to Black Hill was closed and there were only two other exits on single lane roads. The town was saved by a last-minute change of wind direction. It was a warning to the dangers close by that could cause havoc in extreme weather conditions.

At a bushfire education night after the event a Fireman said at the time when I questioned him about the adequacy of the roads in an emergency - *If there was a bush fire that came into Minmi causing many of the community to leave immediately, the traffic, especially on Minmi Road to Fletcher, would come to a standstill and in the low-lying sections especially, people would die in their cars from the smoke inhalation.* We don't need or want this risk.

#### **CONSTRUCTION IMPACT ON LIFESTYLE**

How does the Planning Panel expect Minmi residents to cope with air particle dust and pollution, clearing and machinery operation noise within a 360-degree area of development around Minmi, over a number years of construction due to the sheer size of it. Where do the animals go? Hunter wildlife said snakes end up in backyards and homes.

I repeat we are passionate about saving the uniqueness of our heritage village.

Professor David MacDonald of Oxford university said "Biodiversity is a complex feature of our planet and without it there is no future for humanity. Since colonisation we have destroyed 44% of our native forests in Australia. Let's put a stop to it here in Minmi.

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