

17th December, 2014

Department of Planning and Environment
Attention: Growth, Design & Programmes
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Email: community@planning.nsw.gov.au

SUBMISSION RE: ST ANDREWS ROAD - DRAFT LEPPINGTON PRECINCT PLAN

I would like to register my deep concern and therefore objection to the proposal to upgrade St Andrews Road to a four-lane sub-arterial road.

Currently St Andrews Road is a road that gives people using all modes of transport (including horse riding and walking), access to a beautiful, tranquil and peaceful area. Any upgrade to St Andrews Road will destroy its current access for the many people who want to continue to enjoy their sense of "living in the country".

It should be noted that the Scenic Hills area is an environmentally-protected area. If this area which is currently one of natural beauty and vegetation becomes an area of heavy traffic, much of its beauty and unique environment will be destroyed forever.

The area is home to several religious communities. One of these communities is the Carmelite community. It runs the Mount Carmel Retreat Centre which is very close to St Andrews Road. If the upgrading to St Andrews Road goes ahead, the peacefulness of the Retreat Centre will be destroyed by the continual noise of constant traffic and the brightness of the lighting to the road which will be necessary to install. This is an indication of some of the problems for the Centre.

The Centre would no longer be viable, because it would no longer be able to deliver what it was set up for. People will have to look elsewhere for peaceful surroundings that offer retreats, etc. This will have a negative impact financially on the Carmelites, as people turn to other retreat houses. A major upgrade has been recently undertaken to upgrade the facilities of the Centre.

I have attended several residential retreats at this Centre lasting between one to several days over the years. From personal experience I understand how important it is that St Andrews Road be kept in a country road environment for the enjoyment of many and not be given over to the dictates of businesses which often encourage a "quick fix" to solutions.

Please remove the proposal to upgrade St Andrews Road to a four-lane sub-arterial road from the Draft Leppington Precinct Plan. There are other solutions apart from upgrading this particular road.

Yours sincerely,

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