



DISCALCED CARMELITES

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Director, Urban Renewal
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2000

11 September, 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Glenfield to Macarthur Urban Renewal Corridor Strategy

I write on behalf of the Carmelite Friars Community at Varroville in relation to the above Strategy; in particular to a detail of the Integrated Transport Strategy component that concerns St Andrews Road and its environs.

While this community supports the general concept of the proposed urban renewal, it is concerned that St Andrews Road appears on the Integrated Transport Strategy component as a sub-arterial road joining Campbelltown Road with Camden Valley Way. We are surprised by this as we were not aware of any survey about this matter. We were left wondering where this proposal, appearing almost as a *fait accompli*, came from!

Now however we have learned from p.16 of Cardno's report entitled Glenfield to Macarthur Corridor Integrated Transport Strategy that this idea originated from the South West Growth Centre Road Network Strategy of June 2011 conducted for the RTA (now RMS) by Spakman Mossop Michaels. Unaware of this the Carmelite nuns wrote a year later (April 2012) on this precise point to the respective General Managers of Camden Council and Campbelltown City Council raising concerns about the possibility of making St Andrews Road a through road to Camden Valley Way, as this would have an impact on their way of life. They received reassurance at that time from the General Manager of Campbelltown Council, Mr. Paul Tosi:

Your concerns regarding the through connection of St Andrews Road are acknowledged, however, there are no current plans to provide this road connection through to Camden Valley Way. If proposed in the future, appropriate environmental studies would need to be undertaken, including appropriate consultation with the community to work through all relevant issues.

Clearly the matter was not widely known at that time!

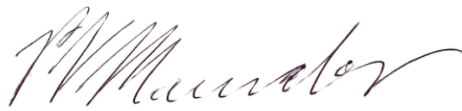
All in all, the Carmelite Friars here submit that the joining of the two existing sections of St Andrews Road as a sub-arterial road, with the consequent inevitable widening of the road, would have a devastating impact on the Mount Carmel Retreat Centre and the Carmelite Nuns Monastery. These establishments are located at the precise point where, if one were travelling

west along St Andrews Road from Campbelltown Road, the road begins to rise steeply up to the level of Camden Valley Way. Both heavy and light vehicle noise and exhaust pollution and the inevitable increased traffic volume of vehicles labouring up this rise would have highly detrimental negative impact on these establishments.

The Retreat Centre has been in this location for the past fifty years precisely to benefit and attract persons from near and far in need of rest and renewal from their various busy and stressful walks of life. The location has been specially chosen for its ease of access to the unique tranquility and scenic restfulness it affords so conveniently to the large population areas of Sydney and wider Campbelltown and its environs.

We strongly object to any proposal to make St Andrews Road a through road. If there is no such intention we ask respectfully ask that this fact be made clear and published.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Fr Paul Maunder', with a stylized, cursive script.

Fr Paul Maunder OCD, Prior