

MOSMAN VILLAGE COMMUNITY

Protecting the character and amenity of Mosman village.

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 2 July, 2019

TRYING TO PULL A WOOLIES OVER OUR EYES: MILITARY ROAD BUSINESSES URGE COUNCIL CAP ON OVER-DEVELOPMENT

Mosman Council is this week starting public consultation on planning changes, and these need to be used to closely examine the Woolworths over-development proposal for Military Road in Mosman Village.

Rightly fearing a backlash from the community during the Local Strategic Planning Statement process, Woolworths has started a sham community consultation process: **selective focus groups**.

Before they get to the Development Application stage, they are staging focus groups, one with the lead campaigners against their over-development, and several others with a small number of potential supporters.

The issue is that Council has been preparing its draft Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS), setting out a 20-year vision for land-use and outlining how growth will be managed to maintain Mosman's qualities.

Locals believe Woolworths has only set up the focus groups as Mosman Council's current planning review could pose threat to any future Woolworths proposal.

The plans being exhibited by Mosman Council could ultimately limit the size of shops on Military Road, which would ruin Woolworth's plans while upholding community expectations.

It is now on the record that Woolworths purchased six of the seven properties along Military Road surrounding Mosman Club under an alias, 'Mosman Club Community Project Pty Ltd.'

"Under cover, Woolworths went on a multimillion-dollar shopping spree in our village to buy six of eight sites along Military Road, on land bound by Belmont Road and Gouldsbury Road," said Jim Slavin of Mosman Village Community.

"Now under the cover of 'consultation', they have begun a process that will inevitably conclude that everyone wants a shopping centre that will kill local businesses and increase traffic.

"Given their track record, we can only assume they have selected groups supportive of their proposal, and will be reporting that to Council during the planning review.

"These techniques are designed by Woolworths to pull the wool over the eyes of the Mosman community."

Local Mosman residents and small businesses are calling on supermarket giant Woolworths to confess its recent community consultations are a sham, the latest effort in its sustained deceptive strategy.

"Mosman locals are pleased to hear that Mosman Council is considering plans to prevent destruction of our local village," said Mr Slavin.

"In the short term, the LSPS could stop Woolworths' ambitious development plans. Importantly, in the long term, the LSPS has the power to preserve the unique community feel of Mosman Village.

"The same rules that saw Coles rejected 500 metres away on planning and traffic grounds in 2014, should apply now: and in fact, they should be stronger as traffic has only intensified.

"Woolworths is waging a war on Military Rd, at the expense of Mosman businesses and the feel of our local village."

Mosman Council's draft LSPS was formally considered by Council and endorsed for public exhibition from 27 June to 7 August.

Mosman locals are encouraged to access the Mosman Village Community website www.MosmanVillageCommunity.org to receive more information about the LSPS and the submission process.

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