

OPINION

EDITORIAL

Court decision delivers important message



LAST week's decision by the Land and Environment Court to reject a three-storey high density apartment complex proposed for Mount Annan is an important reminder that grassroots campaigns to protect a community against inappropriate development are a worthwhile endeavour and can achieve the desired result.

In 2014 Dyldam, a development firm specialising in the construction of high-rise apartment blocks, submitted plans to Camden Council for a 256 unit complex, comprised of nine four-storey buildings on a 5.5 hectare site next to Mount Annan Marketplace. Immediate public backlash prompted the submission of a revised three-storey 246 unit application but residents maintained their position the development was a planning "catastrophe".

Camden Council, to its credit, agreed and when Dyldam appealed to the Land and Environment Court, the council and residents presented a united front of opposition that paid off.

Good urban development should add to quality of life not worsen congestion. It should contribute to a community in a positive way and Dyldam's plan was none of those things. Last week's court victory was a win for sensible development.

Dyldam wanted to cram as many units onto the site as possible and cared nought that its development would irretrievably destroy the amenity of Mount Annan and create a visual blight in a pretty and established suburb of mostly single storey detached homes.

People need somewhere to live and the proliferation of new housing estates

throughout Camden - think Oran Park, Gregory Hills and Spring Farm, for example - in the past few years is proof Camden is already pulling its weight in this regard.

Mount Annan locals too, are happy to accept their share of new residents as long as developers don't get free reign to break the rules on height and scale. They'd love the Dyldam site to remain open space but accept that's not a realistic proposition.

What they won't accept however is a maximum development of minimum quality.

Dyldam has said it will revise the complex design and resubmit a development application within the next few months. Dyldam has been told this community expects a quality housing development that blends nicely with the existing character of Mount Annan. Let's hope they heed that message.

- Editor Roma Dickins

YOUR VIEW

MAIN STREET LOOKS AWFUL

Walking the streets of Camden I noticed work has commenced on the eastern side of Argyle Street, between John Street and Hill Street.

. Workmen are tearing up parts of Argyle Street and the median strip. Traffic chaos coming up for the next six months I suppose.

Hey, wait a moment, Stage 1 of the enhancement works which started in mid 2015 on the western side of Argyle Street are only half completed and looks like a dog's breakfast, making us the laughing stock of visitors to our great little town.

Hey Mayor Lara and your fellow Liberal councillors, what is going on? I would have thought you would finish stage 1 first before tearing up Argyle Street on the eastern side in Stage 2. Do you people know what you are doing exactly?

The next council elections are getting closer every day and I for one can't wait to vote for some new alternate candidates. This present mob we have got is bloody hopeless.
Ron Furtner, South Camden

NUNS TREATED MOST POORLY

As a practising Catholic, I feel ashamed at the behaviour of the Catholic Cemeteries Trust re their plan for a cemetery at Varroville.

The land on the opposite side of St Andrews Rd is owned by the Catholic Carmelite friars (priests). Carmelite nuns also have a convent nearby.

The friars conduct retreats and support two local parishes - the retreat centre is the main one in the Macarthur area.

The nuns are the only enclosed and contemplative order of nuns in Macarthur. They have devoted their lives to prayer, helping many people in need with their prayers and moral support.

Initially the friars were divided about the proposal - almost all are now opposed - but the nuns were always opposed. No one from the Catholic Church or from Catholic Cemeteries has ever discussed this matter with the



Reader Ron Furtner is unhappy with the length of time it is taking to replace paving in Camden's main street.

nuns. Their feelings have been ignored. They have not been treated in a Christian way.

I believe that the proposed development would harm the unique spirituality of this area.

The current quiet, peaceful and serene atmosphere, which is appropriate for retreats and contemplative prayer, would be destroyed.

This spirituality is important and should be protected.

Before Catholic Cemeteries purchased the land, officials should have visited both the friars and the nuns and if either were opposed and unhappy with valid reasons, then land should have been purchased elsewhere.

The Trust chose to act differently - their latest plot of having people from funeral companies posing for pictures on their land has not impressed me one bit.

I hope and pray that councillors Paul Hawker and Paul Lake do the right thing and vote to oppose the cemetery.

Paul Myers, Minto

ROAD TOO DANGEROUS FOR CHILD TO CROSS

Re: Student refused free pass (published Macarthur Advertiser, March 2)

I would like to see a representative from Transport NSW try to cross Campbelltown Road at any time during the daylight hours. This is not something even I would attempt.

This is a four-lane road, with a 70 km speed limit. This child is eight years old. Wake up Transport NSW.

Louise (surname withheld), Raby

ANGERED BY TREE REMOVAL

RE: Chop necessary (Advertiser, March 2). Campbelltown Council's removal of the Queen Street trees is disgusting. We need more trees not less.

I have stumbled quite a few times along Queen Street from the southern end to the northern end but it is the pavers that should be all ripped up and replaced with good old concrete. I guess someone thought it would be cheaper to remove the trees. Not happy.

Kaye McCallum, Campbelltown

FACEBOOK

MOUNT ANNAN DEVELOPMENT

Chris Reynolds: Good! High-rises don't belong in Mount Annan anyway.

Mickey Mac: In January we received 20" of rain and much of this low lying land was under four feet of water. Back in the 1980s during a wet spell, there was such a volume of water pooled there it couldn't go under Narellan Road, and backed up until it eventually overflowed across the surface of Narellan Road. The land is zoned flood prone so is useless for building anything on but it would make a lovely park.

Aaron Chino Dixon Lol 20 people. Stop sooking, more than 9,200 trees and shrubs have already been planted across the city during this financial year

Pedro Porter Sorry is not the same when the birds gone they are gone... frown emoticon

QUEEN STREET TREES

Aaron Chino Dixon: Lol 20 people. Stop sooking, more than 9200 trees and shrubs have already been planted across the city during this financial year.

Pixie Delaney: I can't believe I need to state the obvious, but trees provide beauty, shade and character. I can't imagine Parramatta or any north Sydney councils chopping down most of their street trees in the middle of the night due to tree root issues - without significant community consultation.

Bryn Matthews: Funny how inner Sydney with some of the most fragile and oldest drainage/sewerage and pathways manage to deal with this problem without having to destroy every tree. I will definitely remember who not to vote for in the next council elections.

ILLEGAL DUMPING IN WOLLONDILLY

Giancarlo Ferrari: Put the tip cost at a reasonable rate and people will stop dumping. Last time I took a small trailer load to the tip it cost me \$75 Insane.

Michelle Mercer: It is appalling on Charlie's Point Rd & around the Mermaid Pools. There is no excuse for grubs to dump, we have council pickups, regular garbage collection & the tips in the area are extremely cheap in comparison to other Sydney suburbs.

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