

Attachment 4 – Transport for NSW Response (26 May 2023)

26 May 2023

File No: NTH19/00018/04
Your Ref: DA2022/75; CNR-42437

General Manager
Ballina Shire Council
PO Box 450
Ballina NSW 2478

Attention: Jessica Hutley

River Street (MR695): DA2022/75, Alterations and Additions to Educational Establishment, L: 1 DP: 278708, 62 Horizon Drive West Ballina

I refer to the abovementioned Development Application referred to Transport for NSW (TfNSW) on 9 May 2023 for comment in accordance with Section 3.58 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021*.

TfNSW key interests are the safety and efficiency of the transport network, the needs of our customers and the integration of land use and transport in accordance with the *Future Transport Strategy*.

River Street is a classified (Regional) road and Horizon Drive is a local road. Council is the roads authority for both roads and all other public roads in the area, in accordance with Section 7 of the *Roads Act 1993*.

TfNSW previously provided responses to Council on the proposed development, dated 9 August 2022 and 30 March 2023, which included comments to assist in the determination of this development.

TfNSW has reviewed the Road Safety Audit prepared by CML Civil, dated 27 February 2023, a Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) and associated SIDRA modelling prepared by Rytenschild Traffic Engineering, dated 28 April 2023, and an updated Master Plan prepared by Raunik Design Group, dated 26 April 2023.

TfNSW has reviewed the information provided and does not believe that all comments previously raised have been adequately addressed. In addition to the previous comment raised, the following further comments have been provided to assist Council in finalising the proposal:

- TfNSW notes that the southernmost driveway is now proposed to cater for access and egress from the development. TfNSW has reviewed the amendment and advises this change should not significantly impact River Street (MR695); however, TfNSW suggests Council monitor this arrangement during the development phase, and upon completion of the development, and adjust accordingly to ensure the development does not impede the safety of pedestrians and motorists.

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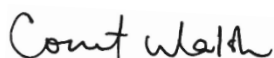
- TfNSW notes that updated traffic counts have been recorded to show normal traffic volumes after the Covid-19 pandemic. Council should be satisfied that these are accurate and reflective of the peak hour volumes in this area.
- TfNSW understands that the background growth for the proposed traffic movements at the site has decreased from 2.5% to 2%. Justification to this change, including the source, to the background growth should be documented in the TIA.
- The SIDRA Modelling shows a 50/50 directional distribution assumption for the trips generated. Council should be satisfied that this has been adequately justified.
- The TIA states that '*the analysis assumes eight percent heavy vehicles on River Street*', however it is noted that only 5% heavy vehicles was used at the River Street / Barlows Road intersection. Council should be satisfied the TIA accurately reflect traffic volumes.
- TfNSW recommends a strategic design is prepared to support the masterplan provided in the TIA and reflects the outcomes of the Road Safety Assessment.

Note: TfNSW recently released a [factsheet](#) that may be of assistance in identifying the level of detail required in the design drawings for all road works.

- Given that the school will have direct access from Riverbend Drive, a 40km/h school zone should be provided and included in a strategic design.
- TfNSW notes the TIA mentions additional vehicle movements and parking on Riverbend Drive. This is a no-through road that currently accommodates access to the Riverbend Retirement Village. The TIA has not considered the potential for conflict between vehicles and pedestrians, particularly regarding student drivers and vulnerable road users. Council should be satisfied that the proposed development will not impede the safety of pedestrians and motorists along Riverbend Drive.
- Council should be satisfied that the TIA has identified and addressed all existing road safety concerns, internal or external to the site, prior to the introduction of additional demand.
- The TIA does not identify existing and proposed active transport demands along Horizon Drive, Riverbend Drive and River Street. TfNSW understands that Council is undertaking a program of works to duplicate River Street, which includes improvements to intersections and crossing facilities for pedestrians. Council should be satisfied the TIA includes details of any gaps in connectivity or existing safety concerns for pedestrians and cyclists on surrounding roads.

Should you require further information please contact Shelby Wells, A/Development Services Case Officer, on 1300 207 783 or 0429 155 086 or by emailing development.north@transport.nsw.gov.au.

Yours faithfully



Court Walsh

A/Team Leader Development Services
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