



Working for the advancement of Northbridge since 1919

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PO Box 357 Northbridge 2063

July 3 2012

Mr Sam Haddad
Director General
Department of Planning & Infrastructure
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Mr Haddad

Re: Woolworths proposal for a new supermarket in Smith St, Chatswood East

Northbridge Progress Association (NPA) is a community organisation of residents which has operated continuously since 1919. NPA had 464 members at December 31 2011.

Woolworths has developed a proposal for a major new supermarket in Smith St, Chatswood East. The new supermarket is expected to reduce retail sales in Northbridge by 9% and traffic volume through Northbridge by 5% to 10%. It would therefore have relieved both Northbridge traffic congestion and current parking limitations in Northbridge Plaza car park, where a major Woolworths store is located. In addition, the project was expected to reduce total traffic movements on the North Shore by 2.8 million kilometres per year.

In its submission on May 18 to Willoughby City Council, NPA said that, because of the beneficial impact on Northbridge traffic, it supported the proposal “to enable it to be placed before the community”.

The proposal was refused by Willoughby City Council on May 28 mainly on the basis that the site is zoned Light Industrial, where retail operation is not permitted. A motion for Council to defer consideration of the proposal to allow time for public consultation was lost. A prior Woolworths’ poll of 400 residents in the trade area had shown that 68% of respondents were in favour of the supermarket, with 15% against. 80% said they would like the proposal put to the community for discussion.

Because of its importance for reducing traffic congestion in Northbridge and the North Shore generally, NPA regrets that the proposal was never placed before the community for wide consultation.

NPA would be pleased to facilitate such consultation through arranging a public meeting or other means.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter McNair', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Peter McNair
President

Copy: Mayor Pat Reilly, Willoughby City Council
Sailors Bay Ward Councillors, Willoughby City Council