

9 February 2022

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Dear Mayor, Councillors and Officers for the Boroondara City Council (BCC)

RE: CCAG SUBMISSION CANTERBURY CAR PARK PROPOSAL

Canterbury Community Action Group (CCAG) is an incorporated association and representative of the Canterbury community. In this capacity we have sought to ascertain the widest possible response from the community to the proposed Wattle Valley Road car park. During January we sent out 3 newsletters informing members of the proposal, encouraging them to engage with the BCC process and to inform us of their views. In the last of these newsletters, we actively sought response from any residents who support the plan. These communications are received directly by over 200 households and via Facebook by over 1300. In addition, we have reached out through our personal networks to as many residents as we are able.

We emphasize that as a representative organisation we have not sought to influence the debate, rather we have tried to remain even handed until we felt we were in receipt of sufficient feedback to enable us to form a view of the community's wishes.

CCAG acknowledges that Council had no plans to create this car park. It is reacting to a promise made during the 2019 Federal election. It was a promise that had not been adequately scoped, planned, costed or sought community input.

Of the responses received, many of them very detailed, **not one response was supportive of the proposal.**

On behalf of the board of CCAG and the wider Canterbury Community we wish to inform you that we are categorically and unequivocally opposed to the construction of the multi-level underground car park on the current site of the Wattle Valley Road car park. We call upon you and all elected representatives of this community to vote against this proposal.

Furthermore, we call upon the Boroondara Council to actively engage with the State Government to explore the development of the site known as the station car park with the objective of improving the interconnection of Maling Road, the station, the adjacent Canterbury and Rochester Roads precincts, Canterbury Gardens and the new Canterbury community hub.

We understand Council will receive a number of very detailed submissions. CCAG has endeavoured to distil its rejection of the proposed Wattle Valley Road car park to six very specific matters as summarised below. These are;

1. The proposal is inconsistent with the vision for the Maling Road Precinct Plan as defined within the Place Plan, a vision with which CCAG is in full agreement.
2. Disturbance arising from construction and operation of the proposal will have short- and long-term impacts on traders who are already holding on by the “skin of their teeth”. They cannot afford more loss of trade during construction. Based on the experience of the recent 101 development construction, many may disappear spelling the end of the unique character of the precinct.
3. Arising from the car park it is anticipated that traffic volumes within the Canterbury precinct area will increase beyond acceptable safety limits and require management systems that have not been provided for.
4. Maling Road and public transport pedestrian access is proposed via a below standard narrow passageway resulting in an increase in risk to the safety of pedestrians, particularly after hours.
5. The community is concerned that as rate payers it will have to carry the burden of ongoing operating expenditure for the underground car park, such as lifts, lighting, cleaning, and security.
6. Should there be a real need for additional commuter car parking, a more appropriate approach would be to develop the existing railway car park on a more cost effective basis than the proposal with a potential benefit of extending the Canterbury Gardens as presented to Council circa 7 years ago.

If further details on the above are required, please do not hesitate to contact CCAG through its email address; secretary@ccag.net.au.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Jenkins
CCAG Secretary