

Say NO to the zig zag concrete path

Friday 27 March 2009

Dear Neighbour,

As you may know, many members of our community are shocked at the imminent construction of a zig zag concrete path across the embankment of the Orphan School Creek land compromising our promised bushland.

The DA, approved in August 2007, outlined a visionary project. At the end of Hereford Street, Forest Lodge, a large area of the former Children's Hospital site and Council-owned land was set aside for a native bushland: a forest of tall native trees that would create a wildlife habitat. The DA was approved by a unanimous vote of council. A new children's play-ground atop the embankment would complete a wonderful asset for our community.

We allowed a whole forest of exotic species, which was already a habitat for birds and animals, to be destroyed for remediation and the promise of a forest of native trees. However, without community consultation, these plans were changed.

More than a year after approval, a 134 m concrete zig zag path appeared on the plans, a path significantly different to the simple path proposed in the original DA and what the community were expecting.

Here's what we had



The zig zag path will cut up the planned forest



This path is not wanted or needed by residents in any shape or form. We believe it:

- cuts a swathe through promised bushland
- fragments biodiversity and one third of the site
- is too steep and long to be accessed easily by people in wheelchairs
- is not accessible to all families with strollers
- ensures tall trees will not be planted (maximum is 3 metres) and we will not get our forest
- is a loss to our privacy because we will never have our dense screen of forest trees
- destroys the embankment habitat
- destroys the once beautiful green corridor that ran along the creek bed path
- is pointless. The playground is easily accessible to all people from Wood St. The playground was always only accessible from Wood St.

No community consultation on the final plan-the plan that counts!

The community was never consulted by Council about these new plans. When the Community found out about it in October 2008 after being letterboxed by the Developer, *Frasers*, we immediately contacted Council. We wanted to ensure that what has been a very long, noisy and dusty process for all of us would not be further delayed by Council.

Concerned Councillors put a resolution to Council in November 2008. But although Council officers were asked again and again for information, neither the Councillors nor residents were ever informed. Instead, in early March 2009, the digging of the zig-zag path started. This is extraordinary. Since then we have been leafleted twice by Council. But, the real problem is not being dealt with: the community weren't expecting this path and it doesn't want this path.

We have the support of five Councillors who agree the community's concern is justified. We have the support of our local State MP Verity Firth who has written "*I am concerned that the voices of local residents are not being listened to with respect to the future of Orphan School Creek*".

Over 350 local residents have already signed a petition against the path. But we need your support.

Please call the Lord Mayor on 9265 9229 and voice your concern.

Please email all Councillors:

Lord Mayor Clover Moore	cmoore@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
Deputy Lord Mayor Marcelle Hoff	mhoff@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
Councillor John McInerney	jmcinerney@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
Councillor Phillip Black	pblack@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
Councillor Di Tornai	dtornai@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
Councillor Robert Kok	rkok@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
Councillor Chris Harris	charris@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
Councillor Irene Doutney	idoutney@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
Councillor Hon Dr Meredith Burgmann	mburgmann@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au
Councillor Shayne Mallard	smallard@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Please join us at an extraordinary Council meeting: 1:00pm, Monday 30 March 2009 This critical meeting has been called specifically in relation to the strong community concerns regarding the site. It will be held at **Council Chambers, Level 3 Town Hall House, 456 Kent St Sydney**. **If you want this path stopped, we need you to attend.**

Please join us at Council's community meeting: 6:00pm, Tuesday, 31 March at **Rydges Hotel, Missenden Road Camperdown.**

For more information please contact:

Michela Noonan: 0413 242 406
Susan Stringfellow: 0411 044 965
Mark Elkins: elkinsm@med.usyd.edu.au
www.saveorphanschoolcreek.org

PROTEST: Please come to the Wood St site: 7:00am, Monday 30 March, 2009 to show your support for the removal of the concrete zig zag path .