31 October 2014

Dear Neighbours,

St Catherine’s School has been at the heart of the Waverley community for almost 160 years, educating girls to become well rounded, caring young women. Over the years we have regularly upgraded our facilities to ensure they continue to enhance our teaching and learning.

We have recently lodged a development application (DA) for a 15-year Master Plan for the school. Stage 1 involves building a new research, performing arts and aquatic centre (RPAC). Before we lodged the DA, we invited residents to several meetings to explain our plans and answer questions. One of those meetings involved all the consultants involved in the DA, including those who carried out the Traffic and Transport assessment.

The education of our girls is of great importance to us; but so is our wish to live harmoniously in our local community. We are committed to being open about our building plans, and want to ensure that the information you receive is accurate and reliable.

How will St Catherine’s grow? Demographic research estimates that by 2031 the population of the School’s catchment area will have grown by 34%, and the school-aged population by 50.8%. Based on this, the DA estimates an increase in student numbers of 230 over the next 15 years.

What are the plans for the swimming pool? The plan incorporates a 30 x 25 metre indoor pool containing a diving area. In addition there is a learn-to-swim pool.

How long will the development take to complete? Stage 1 (the RPAC) will take 18 months to complete. Other stages will be undertaken as the need arises over the next 15 years.

Will RPAC increase the number of functions? The number of functions listed in the DA is based on our current School Program and we anticipate a small increase only.

What is the likely impact on traffic and parking in the area? The Traffic and Transport Assessment indicates there would be minimal impact. We also try to mitigate traffic impact by staggering the times our students leave at the end of the day and encouraging them to cycle or walk to school.

How can you find out more?

• View the model of the proposed development at Waverley Municipal Council until 5 December.
• View the Master Plan on the NSW Department of Planning & Environment website www.planning.nsw.gov.au
• Visit St Catherine’s RPAC website: www.stcatherines.nsw.edu.au/rpac
• Email us at buildingplan@stcaths.nsw.edu.au

I sincerely hope you see the merit of our proposed development; we believe it will significantly enhance opportunities for our girls and augment the facilities of our local area. I encourage you to inspect the plans and register your comments with NSW Department of Planning & Environment.

Yours sincerely

Dr Julie Townsend
Headmistress, St Catherine’s School