



Whitehorse Active Transport Action Group Inc.

Incorporation No: A0098729X

ABN: 63 938 570 447

Web: www.watag.org

WATAG Inc.

C/- 2/4 Salisbury Avenue
Blackburn, VIC 3130

Forest Ridge Draft Development Plan
Strategic Planning Unit
City of Whitehorse, Locked Bag 2
Nunawading Delivery Centre VIC 3131
strategic.planning@whitehorse.vic.gov.au

30 July 2017

Whitehorse Active Transport Action Group Inc. (WATAG) Submission

Forest Ridge Draft Development Plan - DPO 5 104-168 Hawthorn Road Forest Hill.

WATAG is a not-for-profit incorporated organization whose objectives are:

1. To achieve improved health and environmental sustainability within the Whitehorse region by:
 - Promotion of safe participation in active transport for all people – walking, cycling and mobility travel.
 - Promotion and advocacy for greater access to, and use of, public transport for all people.
 - Promotion and encouragement of safe and respectful behaviour towards other transport users when 'on the move'.
2. Liaison with:
 - Relevant local, state and federal governments and authorities in relation to the planning and construction of active transport infrastructure for walking, cycling, accessibility and public transport connectivity.
 - Other like-minded groups to achieve the above outcomes.

The WATAG committee understands that development of Forest Ridge is an important new opportunity to provide additional housing in Whitehorse.

Committee comments are framed in a way that aims to improve outcomes for those residents and visitors who do not rely on vehicle transport for transport or recreation. Active transport opportunities are most effective if incorporated into the design phase of projects.

Aspects of the development plan that could be improved to assist walking, cycling, accessibility, passive recreation and public transport connectivity include:

- Ensure there is shared use path access from Springvale Road into Bulkara Avenue.
- Setbacks to buildings need to be sufficient to include canopy tree planting, all setbacks should be landscaped to provide amenity and shade for users of shared paths. The development plan setbacks seem to be inadequate.

- High rise buildings must be articulated and stepped back to reduce building bulk and increase landscape opportunities and where possible allow retention of existing significant trees.
- Primary shared use paths must comply with the 3 metre Council standard. The Development plan shows the site access from Hawthorn Road as a pedestrian and bicycle link of 2.5m width. Provision for future active transport demand must be incorporated in the development plan.
- An additional link to the primary shared path needs to be added and internally connected to Mahoneys and Hawthorn Road corner via Magnolia Drive to provide connectivity to the Pipe Track shared use path.
- Make adequate provision for secure bicycle parking facilities throughout the development and include charging points for electric bikes at major community facilities.
- A future link from the development site along Springvale Road to the Healesville Freeway Reserve shared path needs to be a Council bicycle strategy priority.
- Families on bikes are likely to use tag-a-longs, cargo bikes, child transport trailers, tandem bikes and the like so all curvatures, crossovers, chicanes etc. on shared paths need to be designed accordingly (likewise people using motorized carts and wheelchairs).
- Provide safe, low-stress walking and cycling connectivity for school-aged children commuting to/from the local primary school and secondary college (Burwood Heights Primary School and Forest Hill College).
- Set speed limits for motor vehicles at 30kph within the development precinct.

From the perspective of future Forest Ridge residents WATAG advocates that many characteristics of neighbourhood character and amenity could be improved:

- Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) requirements must be strengthened to mandate PV Battery storage power, Solar HWS double-glazing and Insulation.
- The Landscape Planting Palette needs to be modified to include more use of native and indigenous trees and plants that provides habitat for native species.
- Retain as many existing significant trees in building setbacks as possible by introducing articulation into building and lot design.
- The developer for the site must allocate more open space for passive recreation. 2,275 square metres set aside for open space adjoining Ansett Park represents ~2.5% of the total land area and needs to be increased to around 4% for the high density residential development anticipated.

Yours sincerely
Graeme Stone
Secretary