

23 November 2016

BCS INC. **CAMPAIGN 2016A**

Retaining the Secondary College open space and vegetation

Statement by the BCS Inc. President on Community Concerns



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- This project has evolved with an initial refusal to provide documents, and without community consultation.
- This school claims an environmental focus, but it has started by removing nearly all its trees.
- Most of the bushland buffer to Long Hollow Heathland will be removed.
- Will a “wildlife corridor” with sufficient width to function between the two heathlands be delivered as claimed?
- School building is very close to a busy intersection with health impacts due to pollution.
- A school achieved, but with many unknown strings attached.
- A public ‘information’ session on 25 November 2016 not a consultation session as promised and agreed.
- Such information session is very brief, and on a Friday. A second, longer, more convenient session is essential.
- The final plans must remain displayed at the Beaumaris Library for 2 weeks to ensure everyone can see them.
- When will the tree removal re-commence?
- How will our community’s wishes be captured and actioned?
- Will additional trees recommended by arborists for retention be saved?
- Will the [Planting List](#) change from below 30% indigenous to near 100% in [this VPO3 area](#)?

Also.....

The following is an excerpt from an interview with the architects on the project.

SL: One of the vertical schools we're working on is the new Beaumaris Secondary College on an existing school site and it's a very exciting project actually. It's different to some of the other vertical schools in the sense that you don't really think of Beaumaris in an urban context even though it's quite a big site, and one of the things that has made it interesting is some of the partnerships that are involved.

The school is a joint venture between the Education Department and the Melbourne Cricket Club with the MCC developing a high performance training centre on the site as part of the joint venture, and providing sports facilities. Because they require so much space, it has necessitated that the school be a multi-level school.

The project is about creating interaction between the wider urban precinct, and it's an interesting area with the site being formerly a part of Sandringham College, which is a multi-campus school with two other campuses. This particular campus really struggled in the Beaumaris community, and lacked its own real sense of identity, competing with private schools nearby so the Department is using this as a flagship case along with the other vertical schools.

Greg Mier
President, Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc.