

OBJECTION TO APPLICATION NO. MP 06 0094 MOD 5
SANDON POINT RESIDENTIAL AND RETIREMENT VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT

I object to the proposal by Anglicare to modify the 2006 original concept plan. **I object** because the proposed modification is detrimental to our community based on issues of amenity, capacity, safety and environment.

I object because:

- Anglicare has NOT provided any staging for the Tramway Creek bridge to create another north/south road for the northern illawarra
- Anglicare has NOT provided an accurate assessment of the road network and vehicular connectivity, site coverage, character and scale
- Anglicare has NOT demonstrated that the revised development will be wholly contained within the approved footprint. They have NOT demonstrated that there will be no encroachment on the Turpentine Forest
- Anglicare has NOT accurately assessed the impacts of their layout of the proposed changes on the Turpentine Forest and Aboriginal areas because they insist that the recommended 20 metre Asset Protection Zone is not at all important and insist that 6 metre buffer zone will be more suitable for their proposed changes
- Anglicare has NOT maintained perimeter roads around their proposed development (and has completely encroached on these perimeter roads due to providing no internal roads to cope with vehicular traffic in their proposed development). Anglicare has NOT provided appropriate buffer areas to riparian corridors
- Anglicare has NOT provided an indicative layout to accommodate the revised built form and has in fact significantly deleted an important part of the original road network ie Cooksons Creek vehicle Bridge
- Anglicare has NOT provided any measures to minimise land use conflicts and in fact has maximised land use conflict because Anglicare insist that the recommended 20 metre Asset Protection Zone is not at all important and insist that 6 metre buffer zone will be more suitable for their proposed changes
- Anglicare does NOT maintain any permeability through the site and do not maintain any of the current safe linkages/connections to the beach because Anglicare's proposed changes include in excess of 12 driveways crossing Wilkies Walk along Wilkies Street, which is the current safe pedestrian/cycle way and east/west link to the beach. Anglicare's proposed boardwalk across Cooksons Creek, in fact, confirms that Wilkies Walk will not be a safe linkage to the beach.
- Anglicare proposed changes do NOT minimise potential for vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian conflicts and in fact CREATES massive risks to community safety

- Anglicare does NOT provide an accurate assessment of the impact of their proposed 55 residential townhouses. Anglicare has not demonstrated how their proposed 55 townhouse development fits in with the current height, bulk and scale of the current McCauleys Beach housing estate which contains 180 free standing homes and only 6 adjoined townhouses
- Anglicare does NOT demonstrate compliance with the provisions of Planning for Bushfire Protection 2006 as they propose to reduce the 20 metre Asset Protection Zone to just a buffer zone of 6 metres (ie. the width of a two car garage)
- Anglicare has completely IGNORED the heritage listing of the Turpentine Forest and Aboriginal sites due to the fact they wish to disregard the recommended 20 metre Asset Protection Zone and reduce it to just a 6 metre buffer zone
- Anglicare does NOT address the required road/intersection upgrades to manage all the additional traffic generated by the proposal. Anglicare has not demonstrated that the current narrow roads which were designed by Stocklands for McCauleys Beach housing estate, will be able to comply with Anglicare's proposed 55 residential townhouse traffic. ALL of which Anglicare will require to flow into narrow Wilkies Street across Wilkies Walk. Wilkies Street is ONLY 6.5 metres wide, when two cars are parked opposite each other, the road is completely blocked to traffic. Lives are at risk because no emergency vehicles will be able to access Wilkies Street.
- Anglicare has not addressed timing for the delivery of vehicular connectivity between Wrexham Road and Point Street, the bridge over Tramway Creek and has not addressed any changes to pedestrian and cycle ways
- Anglicare has NOT identified how best practice Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) will be incorporated. In fact Anglicare has identified how best practice ESD will NOT be incorporated due to the fact the 20 metre Asset Protection Zones are to be reduced to just a 6 metre buffer zone
- **Please refer to Ethos Urban letter dated 12th December, 2017**, aerial photo (Figure 2) of the site clearly shows the size of the northern portion of bushland, containing the heritage listed Turpentine Forest. This aerial photo clearly shows the narrow width of Wilkies Street. It clearly shows that Wilkies Street will be unable to cope with all the traffic from Anglicare's proposed 55 residential townhouses. Figure 3, clearly shows the bulk of the heritage Turpentine Forest. Due to the depicted size of the Turpentine Forrest, Figure 3, clearly shows that there is no possibility of building the proposed townhouse blocks of E, D and C which Anglicare are now proposing. Plus Figure 3 clearly shows that the traffic associated with the Hilltop Precinct flows into the large arterial Geraghty Street and traffic from Ocean View Precinct circulates through Anglicare's own internal road network designed specifically in the 2006 Concept Plan and thereby does not impact on narrow Wilkies Street. This is further demonstrated in Figure 4.

- Anglicare's proposed changes clearly demonstrate that Anglicare has not provided any internal road network to cope with their current proposed changes and merely wish to take complete advantage of the external roads of McCauleys Beach housing estate which were designed by Stocklands for 180 free standing residences and just 6 x 2 townhouses.
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HERITAGE LISTED TURPENTINE FOREST

Since the 2006 Concept Plan, the Turpentine Forest in the 12 years since, has dramatically increased as evidenced by the report dated July, 2018 from the arborist, Moore Trees, page 17. There is NO recognition in Anglicare's proposed changes, that the forest has grown.

In the 2006 Concept Plan the Asset Protection Zone was 20 metres. The proposed changes to the 2018 Plan, in fact, does not address the extent that the Heritage listed Turpentine Forest has so dramatically increased. In fact, Anglicare now proposes to decrease the APZ by 14 metres down to just 6 metres. The current Asset Protection Zone of 20 metres proposed in the 2006 Concept Plan, should still remain and not be decreased, due to the substantial growth of the forest as I have stated.

Planning for Bushfire Protection Guidelines 2001 makes a provision for a minimum 20m APZ for development adjacent smaller forest remnants. Smaller forest remnants are described within the PBP Guidelines as being a forest less than 1 hectare in size and can also be narrow corridors of vegetation as guided by consultation with the NSW Rural Fire Service". The letter goes on to state – 'Asset Protection Zones less than 20m have been approved by the NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) for integrated developments, and local councils for other developments based on the merits and risk at each site and in consultation with the RFS. The remnant Turpentine Forest is one such area where the APZ needs to be 20m.

I object to Anglicare proposing only a 6m buffer zone. A two car garage is 6m wide. For a heritage listed site such as the remnant turpentine forest, clearly a 20m APZ, is the minimal requirement.

The northern suburbs of Wollongong requires more green space, (eg the Heritage Turpentine Forest), not less green space. The original 20 metre Asset Protection Zone should NOT be compromised. I OBJECT to the 20 metre APZ being reduced to just 6 metres

COOKSONS CREEK BRIDGE

In the 2006 Concept Plan, there was a bridge proposed over Cooksons Creek to take traffic away from Wilkies Street on to Geraghty Street thereby circulating all traffic within Anglicare's own development. In the 2018 proposed changes, this bridge is no longer proposed. In 2006 Concept Plan, Block D was not proposed, now if the 2018 proposed changes are approved, there will be more traffic flowing on to narrow Wilkies Street, because the exit on to Geraghty Street is no longer in the 2018 plan.

I object to Type D and Type E townhouses that front narrow Wilkies Street. These developments D and E are new plans, not modifications. **I object** to the current proposed amendments, that all access to D and E townhouses to be via narrow Wilkies Street, this is just poor urban design.

55 TOWNHOUSES

Since 2006, Stocklands has completed the northern side of the estate including 2 bridges and a housing estate of 180 free standing houses and 6 duplex type attached buildings (ie a total of 12) which appear as single duplexes scattered amongst free standing homes.

In this same 12 years, Anglicare has built nothing. No north south link bridge over Tramway Creek or any accommodation for aged care. Conversely, Anglicare now proposes to build 55 townhouses. Anglicare state (with no evidence) that this is because there is less need for aged care now in 2018 as opposed to what Anglicare said was required in 2006. In my opinion, this is just a convenient statement for Anglicare to make so that they can profit by building then selling off 55 residential townhouses. I am not an expert in the ageing population, however, in my personal experience, the ageing population is actually increasing ie the statistics on baby boomers alone is proof that good aged care is what is definitely required by not only New South Wales, specifically the Northern Illawarra.

I object to 55 townhouses being built. Anglicare proposes 55 townhouses however, does not wish to provide the roads and infrastructure for their OWN development. Instead, they want to crowd the associated traffic from these into current inadequate infrastructure of narrow Wilkies Street and surrounding narrow streets of McCauley Beach Estate .

Stockland created a careful master plan with less than 200 dwellings to ensure an easy beachside mood and one which seamlessly integrates and blends with the current Bulli and Thirroul existing houses and community. Stockland designed McCauleys Beach to provide a superior lifestyle for residents. Stockland has over 50 years in residential development and has created award winning communities all over Australia. They have a commitment to ground breaking architecture and unique urban design solutions to bring high standards to residential living . Stockland designed McCauleys Beach Estate for nature to be a part of the streetscape. To be able to safely walk from our homes to the beach ie Wilkies Walk. Stockland has proven its commitment to ensure an easy beachside mood incorporating pedestrian and cyclist safety. Anglicare's proposal of 55 townhouses is in complete contradiction to Stockland ethics. **I object** to this proposal.

The initial approval of the estate, in 2006, was based upon the construction of a southerly link road to Point Street, Bulli. This link road has not been built and the Sturdee Avenue Bridge was identified as a temporary alternative. However, Wollongong City Council, permanently closed this bridge to vehicular traffic and made it a permanent pedestrian bridge because the safety of residents and community members is of great importance. Sturdee Street pedestrian bridge links with Wilkies Walk as current safe access to the beach. However, with all Anglicare's proposed driveways crossing Wilkies Walk, there will be no further safe access to the beach for pedestrians and cyclists. **I object** to Blocks D and E.

The traffic from Sections D and E all flow to narrow Wilkies Street. Townhouse developments D and E will be completely new developments NOT modifications. In the original concept plan there was no proposal to have building developments fronting the shared path to the beach of Wilkies Walk and narrow Wilkies Street. The objection is based on concern for the natural environment of the heritage listed Turpentine Forest and for habitat which provides life to the birds and animal of this forest.

I am concerned for the integrity and safety of the pedestrian/cycle way which is Wilkies Walk. I am concerned that the bulk and scale of 55 townhouses will dramatically change the amenity of Wilkies Street and surrounding streets, which is currently peaceful, quiet and safe. Wilkies Walk is the east /west link to beach and is not only used by local residents, it is used

by residents who live west of the highway as a direct walk to the beach, because it is so much easier for those residents to walk to the beach due to the gridlock and overloaded traffic on Lawrence Hargrave Drive. Residents further away actually drive and park in Wilkies Street and then walk down Wilkies Walk to the beach and specified dog beach located at McCauleys Beach.

SAFETY, TRAFFIC, CAPACITY

Townhouses D and E will put 12 driveways across just 200 metres of Wilkies Walk effectively decimating as a pedestrian and cycle way. It will be very dangerous to walk, cycle on the Walk. In addition, this proposed development would place numerous additional parked cars on very narrow Wilkies Street, making it equally dangerous for driving along the street. This proposed development is NOT in public interest.

12 townhouses (type D and E) fronting Wilkies Street is NOT in keeping with the current street amenity of individual and free standing homes on blocks not less than 450 square metres. These homes all had to comply with specific Stocklands building covenants as well as Council DCP. There are no townhouses or duplexes on Wilkies and there is one duplex in Air Avenue in the street behind Wilkies Street. Our street amenity will be significantly and detrimentally altered by multi townhouse developments which Anglicare are currently proposing.

This additional development of townhouses D and E should not be approved when the potential devastating impact on the heritage listed Turpentine Forest, Wilkies Walk and Wilkies Street safety, amenity is so great. This proposed development is not in public interest at all.

I object to the 55 townhouses and **I object** specifically to the vehicles and traffic forced into narrow Wilkies Street by Anglicare's proposal.

TOWNHOUSE TYPE C, D and E

In the previous 2006 concept plan, Section D did not exist. The residents in Wilkies Street at 23, 21, 19, 17, 15, 13 and 11 specifically bought their blocks of land because Stockland specifically advised and promised that it would be impossible for any future development to be built across from 23, 21, 19, 17, 15, 13 and 11 due to the size and location of the heritage listed Turpentine Forest and the 20m Asset Protection Zone which encircled it. On this surety provided by Stocklands, we and our neighbours purposefully and specifically purchased our blocks of land.

The size of the Turpentine Forrest and Asset Protection Zone depicted in the Stockland brochure, would prevent any such buildings being built there. Section D currently shown in Anglicare's amended concept plan is in absolute contradiction to the surety provided by Stocklands that no buildings could be built in this location (across from Nos. 23,21,19,17,13 and 11 of Wilkies Street). **I object** to townhouse Block D.

In the proposed amended concept plan, all traffic from Blocks D and E flow directly into narrow Wilkies Street. Previously, in the 2006 concept plan, Block D and Block C was not shown at all due to the bulk of the heritage listed Turpentine Forest. Traffic from site of Block E flowed into the much larger arterial road of Gerraghty Street. **I object to** Townhouse Blocks C, D and E.

When considering urban design and planning, the proposed modification diminishes the original concept plan.

In good urban design, high volume townhouses such as the 55 wanted by Anglicare, are most appropriately placed close to the services of railway, major highways, large shopping precincts and schools. Aged care facilities are more appropriately placed in quiet and serene locations as they do not require frequent access to the services. McCauleys is such a quiet and serene location and 55 townhouses will diminish the peaceful location. The 2006 concept plan appropriately determined that the ARV site was appropriate for aged care accommodation.

HILLTOP and OCEANVIEW PRECINCT

The Hilltop precinct that fronts on to narrow Wilkies Street, is inappropriate for townhouse development because:

- It is the most distant part of the Sandon Point site from railway stations, main roads, shopping centres and schools (there will be no vehicle access across the closed Sturdee Street Bridge)
- ABS 2016 census confirms that more than 60% of Bulli dwellings have 2 or MORE, motor vehicles. As the proposed Hill Top and Oceanview townhouses will not be close to any services or transport links, then the townhouses WILL have 2 or more motor vehicles
- Future residents of the proposed townhouses will be dependent on private motor vehicle transportation to access services, employment, entertainment, sport etc through adjacent narrow streets – containing detached dwelling homes on land no less than 450 square metres
- The developer is reneging on the commitment to provide road egress and access to the Oceanview precinct via construction of Cookson Creek bridge which would enable all of the Anglicare development traffic to circulate within the ACTUAL Anglicare development. However, Anglicare have deleted this Cookson Creek bridge and now proposes to use narrow Wilkies Street as the access road for all their townhouses
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A modification to a previously assessed and approved concept plan should improve rather than diminish the plan.

It must be for the benefit of all the community and residents NOT just for the benefit of the developer. This current developer's proposal will impact significantly on existing community in terms of amenity, pedestrian and cyclist safety and traffic flow and congestion. It changes good urban design into bad urban design and should be rejected. This proposed development places developer profit ahead of community well being

Leaving the natural environment undisturbed by stopping development of the proposed townhouses immediately surrounding the endangered Turpentine forest that is listed in Wollongong's LEP as a heritage item and the site is of significance to the local Aboriginal community.

Reasons:

Objection 1: The townhouse blocks B-F are under the immediate threat of fire danger due to their close proximity to the reserved forest.

The residents in Wilkies Street have fresh memory of a bush fire in the early summer in 2017 at the area of block B, C of the planned townhouses. The fire service was called in to put down the bush fire. Therefore, to ensure the safety of the townhouse residents in the above blocks, 20 metres of defendable space is required. Mechanical removal of vegetation for bushfire protection, mowing and encroachment issues including under-scrubbing and clearing, are proven risk factors for the Heritage listed remnant Turpentine forest.

According the Best practice guidelines Sydney Turpentine-Ironbark forest published by Department of Environment and Climate Change NSW in 2008, the main threat to Turpentine Forest is clearing and loss of vegetation for development, which is exactly what the new development does. The forest size is already small. It cannot afford increased edge effects inevitable by the townhouses. Other threats include fringe area moving and clearing, urban run-off, leading to increase nutrients and sedimentation, garden refuse dumping, leading to weed invasion, building structures, including sheds and cubby-houses, fires caused by arson. All these threats are inevitable with the planned townhouses surrounding the turpentine forest which is why the defendable asset protection zone must be 20 metres.

Objection 2. The townhouses block the connection of the aboriginal archaeological site at the beach front with the other site close to the Turpentine forest. It is a direct offence to aboriginal culture and heritage.

Objection 3. The townhouse development diminishes the important habitat for many beautiful Australian birds that use the bushes and shrubs at the proposed townhouse site as habitat. This will reduce the scenic and recreational value of one of the most beautiful regions in Wollongong, and damage the tourist value of Sandon Point and Bulli Point.

Objection 4: Using the narrow Wilkies street as main access to the blocks of townhouses.

The new development does not build the basic road infrastructure for the townhouses and utilises the narrow Wilkies Street as the main road for access. Wilkies Street is only 6.5 m wide, it does not have the capacity to be the main road to provide access to the proposed new development. It is the main path for many beach goers, pedestrians and cyclists. Over-crowded traffic will put the safety of the community at risk. Over-crowded cars parked on the road not only creates risk however, also disturbs the existing resident's amenity by blocking access to their own houses.

Objection 5: The design and layout of the 55 residential townhouses do not fit with that of the Wilkies Street, McCauley Beach housing estate or Sandon Point housing estate. The huge bulk and scale of the townhouse style is in conflict with the current design of housing which displays diversity and choice, an important residential development consideration at McCauley Beach. The propose development needs to apply the same building standard as that of the McCauley Beach and Sandon Point.

Sites B, C, D should not be cleared for the proposed townhouse development for the reason of protecting the heritage listed Turpentine Forest and retaining safety of

residents, pedestrians and cyclists from bushfire danger by imposing a 20 metre Asset Protection Zone around the Turpentine Forest.

TRAMWAY CREEK BRIDGE TO CREATE A NORTH/SOUTH LINK ROAD

It is **imperative** that Anglicare build the bridge over Tramway Creek **PRIOR** to any construction taking place.

Currently, the only access to the Anglicare site is via Wrexham Road, Thirroul. So all vehicles connected to their development would need to travel north via heavily congested Lawrence Hargrave Drive to Thirroul, turn into Wrexham Road, then navigate back south through McCauley Beach Estate to get to the Anglicare site. This is going to create more vehicles on an already overloaded Lawrence Hargrave Drive and many more vehicles through McCauleys Beach Estate. This will provide increased risk and hazards to the community.

THIRROUL VILLAGE COMMITTEE MEETING 11.11.2018

Recently on 11th November, 2018, I attended a Thirroul Village Committee meeting.

An Anglicare representative attended the meeting as well. The concerns of locals was discussed re additional traffic, safety, and the threat to the heritage listed Turpentine Forest, particularly now that 55 residential townhouses were proposed and the reduction of the 20 metre Asset Protection Zone proposed to be reduced to just 6 metres.

Local residents were concerned that the Anglicare representative could not be specific about what would actually be built. In my opinion, this is confusing and alarming, and there is no transparency to Anglicare's plans. And, further, in my opinion, community safety and interest is being disregarded in the current proposed plan.

Yours sincerely