

The Director General

ACT Education Directorate familiesandstudents@act.gov.au 22 May 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing regarding the piece of land bordered by the Campbell Primary School , W.E O'Brien Court independent living facility and Chauvel Street in Campbell.

Campbell residents have seen this land deteriorate from a green open space to a bare, compacted piece of ground that is now used for overflow school parking. In summer, dust blows off this area into the surrounding houses and the independent living units bordering it. In winter it turns to mud.

Large numbers of cars, not associated with the school, use this carpark for all day parking, avoiding the pay parking at Russell Offices and nearby government buildings. While there have been some attempts by the school principal to have these cars removed, this does not seem to be a long term deterrent. This constant traffic is further compacting the soil and it has now reached a point where nothing grows at all. The movement of the cars across the carpark to reach the exit road also presents a safety risk to the schoolchildren and parents that walk across this area at drop off and pick up times.

In addition, there is a remnant eucalyptus in the centre of the ground which is unprotected and subject to compaction from the numbers of cars that park within its dripline. Several years ago a large amount of wood chips were spread over the area, it is assumed to provide some sort of permeable surface. Over time, this has broken down and there is now nothing to protect against further compaction and soil loss.

A number of approaches have been made to the school requesting information about what is planned for this piece of land that has become an eyesore.

Campbell Primary School is about to undergo extensive refurbishment and rebuilding over the next few years. I was told that this space would probably be covered in the master plan for these capital works. Unfortunately when the draft plans were opened for community consultation, this area was not included.

I am therefore calling on the Directorate to address this problem as soon as possible. Ideally it would be returned to its original green open space, however if this cannot be done there needs to be proper management to ensure no further degradation occurs and that it is restored to a condition that is pleasant to look at. The protection of the remnant tree with some sort of barrier is a priority and needs to be urgently addressed as I believe if this situation is allowed to continue it will kill this significant tree.

Regards

(Name)

Campbell Resident

Email: