



Friends of Mona Vale

An Expression of some of the objectives of the organisation called **The Friends of Mona Vale**, an organisation that does not confine itself solely to the people of the suburb but to the interests of all of the area known as Pittwater.

Pressed by a government and council-staff-inspired Mona Vale Place Plan to increase building heights within the centre of Mona Vale from the present 13 metres to 23 metres, so allowing the construction of 6 & 7 stories, this organisation seeks to oppose that plan.

It seeks rather to preserve the historic and current village-like atmosphere of its centre by the setting of a maximum height limit of 13 meters or 4 stories; it prefers 3 stories.

Referring to Page 61 of the Greater Sydney Commission report on its proposed development of Mona Vale as a “**hub**”, the Commission offers the following advice to planners: “**leverage the Mona Vale B-Line bus stop to facilitate intensification of uses in the centre**”. Thus is the intent of both the Commission and the management and staff of the former Pittwater Council further confirmed.

Claiming that the deletion of the long-established Waratah St. bus stop and its replacement within Village Park is necessitated for “reasons of safety”, the local MP, the Hon Rob Stokes, who made the claim, fails to offer any **evidence** that one stop will be safer than the other. In his support of **intensification** he further reveals the true intent of **leverage**.

The Friends of Mona Vale does not oppose the establishment of the B-Line service. It does question, however, the context of its provision, its massive 600 million plus cost and the ongoing erosion of Village Park. Further, at its public meeting of 9th April, 2017 the Friends unanimously resolved : “the meeting gives notice of its opposition to any future privatisation of the B-Line bus service”. We believe that the public good should prevail over private interests and are happy that the public service, which has so long provided buses to Pittwater, should continue to do so.

Faced with government secrecy, spin and bad planning, the organisation recognises that for it to effectively resist the commercial and development interests in play, a campaign to raise public understanding is necessary.

Too few of the people of Pittwater are aware that the planned increase of 13,000 people at Ingleside, Warriewood, Mona Vale and Bayview will not be relieved by the provision of an upgraded bus service. In an wholly unrealistic attempt to induce people to travel by bus, the B-Line service plans to provide a total of only **900 parking spaces** between Mona Vale and Manly Vale.

The bulk of these spaces are to be supplied at Warriewood, Dee Why and Brookvale, with a **net loss of 36 casual spaces at Mona Vale.** Thus is the terminus **Hub** of Mona Vale and all points North deprived of any parking improvement or inducement to travel by bus.

Such poor and negative provision cannot possibly alleviate the currently choked road traffic of the Northern Beaches, let alone have any effect in future as the targeted 13,000 more people settle here.

Friends of Mona Vale also supports efforts toward the de-amalgamation of Northern Beaches Council and the re-establishment of Pittwater Council.