



PRESERVING AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST GARDEN SUBURB

P.O. BOX 85, HUNTERS HILL, N.S.W. 2110

Barry Smith,
General Manager
Hunters Hill Council
Alexandra St Hunters Hill

Dear Barry,

**Objection to DA 2017-1180
Subdivision of No 5 Crescent St
St Peter Chanel Church**

The Marist Fathers Development Application to carve a substantial part of the curtilage of St Peter Chanel Church along Crescent Street is not supported in any way by The Hunters Hill Trust.

The Marist Fathers have owned this land since they bought it from George Shannon Arthur and William Cope in 1889 for 700 pounds. The community of Hunters Hill recognises the contribution the church makes through the provision of pastoral care and a place of peace and worship as well as a fine location for concerts and musical performances. The community has also supported the church because of the nature of the use of the site including the fine stone church and its vegetated curtilage, which adds substantially to the character of the Conservation Area.

In recognition of this contribution, the community has financially supported the church by waiving collection of rates on the land for the last 127 years.

The proposed site for the subdivision into two house blocks of around 1000m² each is along the northern boundary of the land which has a frontage to Crescent St and, which is a very steep embankment covered with trees and undergrowth. This green space creates the special character of Crescent Street as well as providing a wonderful backdrop to the church and its surrounds.

The proposed subdivision will require the removal of most of the existing trees, shrubs and ground cover to allow the construction of buildings, garages, driveways and recreation areas. The proposed house lots to be created by the subdivision of the site, will be comparatively narrow and because of the steepness of the site, most unsuitable for the construction of houses

If the proposal goes ahead, it will have a number of severely detrimental affects, including the following :

- The curtilage of the Church, which is included in the heritage listing, will be significantly reduced.
- The beautiful park-like setting of the church will be significantly changed for the worse.
- The character of the Conservation Area, particularly in Crescent St will be adversely impacted by the replacement of the landscaped area along the boundary of the church with houses and driveways and the removal of large chunks of the existing rock forms.

There is no benefit to the community in this proposal and we urge Council to reject it entirely.

Yours sincerely,

Alister Sharp
President, The Hunters Hill Trust
12 February 2018