



Hornsby Council has approved a request from Loreto to increase its student capacity.

Loreto to expand

STEPHANIE SWORD

HORNSBY Council has approved a Normanhurst school's request to increase its student population from 915 to 1150.

As reported online at hornsbyadvocate.com.au last week, councillors unanimously approved Loreto Normanhurst's development application to increase its student numbers by about 25 per cent.

Normanhurst resident Robert Zorretto opposed the DA. He questioned whether infrastructure near the

school could handle a student increase and was particularly concerned about traffic volume.

But councillors said most students would catch public transport to the school.

"The school is well served by public transport," school council chair John Kean confirmed. "Most students take the bus, train or walk."

Mr Kean also told the council that the DA was simply "a precautionary measure" to prepare for "expected future growth", and the school would be

ready when numbers did rise if the DA was approved.

Councillors stated that the area's population boom would place increasing demands on all local schools and expansion of those schools that sought it should be a priority.

"The biggest complaint we hear from residents is about the existing infrastructure not supporting the needs of the community," Cr Michael Hutchence said.

"Now we have an opportunity to assist a school in meeting future demands."