



Community Update

Masjid Development Proposal *Progress & Planning Challenges*

As-salaamu 'alaykum wa Rahmatullah,

We are pleased to update our beloved community on the progress and **ongoing challenges** regarding the Masjid Amendment Proposal for our property at 97 Bartok Court, Narre Warren South, purchased in August 2023.

Comprehensive Reports Submitted

To support our
application, we
submitted
**eight professional
reports**

to the City of
Casey:

1. Planning Report
2. Traffic Impact Assessment
3. Acoustic Report
4. Waste Management Plan
5. Stormwater and Drainage Report
6. Bushfire Management Statement (if applicable)
7. Landscape Design Plan
8. Community Needs Assessment

These submissions
demonstrated both the
need and the readiness of
our project to serve the
community effectively
and responsibly.



Meeting with **MP Honourable Gary Maas**.

Initial Approval & Sudden Setbacks

The interim council accepted our application and approved it through all major planning stages. We were finalising conditions when a newly elected council and a new planning department team revisited the proposal.

New concerns were unexpectedly
raised:

- *Reposition the building away from neighbours*
- *Move the car park behind*
- *Eliminate three classrooms*

We complied with all requests. **Blur Architecture** resubmitted the revised plans accordingly. However, the **council has now requested that we reduce the entire building back to the original church's size — a drastic move that would eliminate essential facilities** such as the library, cafeteria, and sufficient classrooms.



Why an Amendment Was Necessary?

Following the purchase, we engaged **Blur Architecture**, a leading architectural firm, and professional town planners to assist with the application to amend the use of the existing building from a church to a purpose-built mosque. **The current structure presented several challenges:**



Qiblah misalignment by 50–60%, making the existing prayer space unsuitable



The original building was too small to serve our large and growing Muslim population



The structure had crosses on every window and door, which needed to be removed for religious appropriateness

We therefore proposed a new mosque design which includes:

A Qiblah aligned prayer space ✓

Additional facilities: library, cafeteria, classrooms ✓

A significantly improved car park layout ✓

Strategic Advocacy

In light of these issues, we have reached out to key stakeholders:

- Held a productive meeting with [Mayor of Casey, Councillor Stefan Koomen](#)
- Met with [Local MP Gary Maas](#), who was supportive and understanding
- Scheduled additional meetings with other local MPs

We continue to advocate respectfully and diligently to ensure our application is fairly assessed and aligned with community needs.

Suburb	Total Population	Muslim Population
Narre Warren	28,123	2,736
Narre Warren North	8,033	776
Narre Warren South	30,909	4,973
Berwick	50,298	1,701
Total Population	117,363	10,186



Meeting with
Mayor of Casey, Councillor Stefan Koomen

Why Our Proposal Matters?

1. The Muslim Population is Underserved

Unlike the previous Syrian Orthodox Church, our Muslim community is large, active, and growing. Based on current data (see table).

There are no official mosques serving these suburbs, despite hosting over 10,000 Muslims.

2. Inconsistent Council Decisions

The original planning team approved and advanced our application. The new team, within the same council office, has now reversed direction causing unnecessary delays and hardship.

3. Inequity with Other Churches

The nearby Casey Christian Reformed Church, located on the same street, is approximately five times larger than the original church we purchased. Our proposed facility remains significantly smaller by comparison.

Donation

AL-ITQAN BANK DETAILS:

BSB: 033 341

ACC: 772982



Scan Here



Our Dua and Your Support

We are doing our utmost — professionally, spiritually, and strategically — to establish a House of Allah that will uplift and serve our families and future generations.

We kindly ask for your:

- Du'ā's for success and ease
- Community support as we prepare to engage more widely if necessary
- Advocacy where possible, with local leaders and representatives

We are also continuing to raise funds so we can act without delay once approval is granted. Your ongoing donations ensure that we are financially prepared to move forward the moment Allah opens the door.

Every contribution, big or small, brings us closer to laying the first brick and creating lasting benefit for our community.

We trust that Allah will open the doors of khayr and grant us enduring glad tidings.

Jazakumullahu Khayran, Al-Itqan Community Centre Team

Al-Itqan Community Centre Team

📍 97 Bartok Court,
Narre Warren South

🌐 www.alitqan.com.au

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