

Dimitri Gotsis
Department of Planning,
Industry and Environment
12 Darcy Street,
Parramatta NSW 2150

Dear Mr Gotsis

Upgrade to North Sydney Public School (SSD-11869481)

We are writing in response to public submissions received by DPIE in relation to the North Sydney Public School Upgrade Project, mainly concerning rubbish collection at the school and the existing basketball courts to the southwest corner of the site.

Please see our responses below:

- a) The growth of the school has led to the increase in rubbish and its removal frequency and volume by private commercial contractors at unsociable hours disturbing our sleep in the early hours of the morning.*

To improve on our noise amenity and reasonable expectation of the residents and our community, I suggest imposing Hours of Operation for Rubbish Removal similar to Construction Hours Standard

Condition of Development. The standard Construction Hours are 7am-5pm Monday to Friday; 8am-1pm Saturdays and no work permitted on Sundays and Public Holidays.

However as this Rubbish Removal Condition would be lasting, I would concede to extended hours of 7am-7pm Mondays to Fridays

Response: The issue of rubbish collection times and frequency is an operational matter which is dealt with directly by School Operations and the rubbish collection contractor. The upgrade project therefore has no involvement in this issue. As such, the project team has notified the school of the resident's concerns and the school has advised that it will be discussing the issue with the rubbish collection contractor.

- a) Whilst I am supportive of the overall upgrade to the school, I am disappointed that there has been a decision not to upgrade the school basketball courts as part of this development. This is probably the only opportunity to do this necessary upgrade. The courts are in a state of disrepair, the ground is sloping and uneven, and the hoops / backboards are falling apart. For any child who currently plays basketball, this makes them very difficult to use and doesn't create an incentive for other children to participate in sport. The school doesn't have an oval and these courts are the only opportunity the school has to teach children a sport in a proper sporting environment.*

In addition, there is a significant lack of sports facilities in the North Sydney Council area as a whole (1 outdoor basketball court for ~75k people which is permanently in use by adults).

The school has an opportunity to upgrade these facilities, and potentially partner with community sport to provide much needed capacity to encourage children to play sport.

Response: Upgrade of the existing basketball courts does not form part of the current scope of works for the construction project. There may however be opportunities in the future for the school to seek separate funding to upgrade facilities that have not been included in this project.

- a) *My concern is primarily in relation to availability of active recreational areas for the number of current students, as well as the anticipated number of future students.*
In particular, I note the existing active 3-6 play equipment located to the west of the current Hall will be demolished and further note, as per Clause 3.5.3 Sports facilities of the SSDA that the existing basketball courts in the south-west corner of the school will remain unchanged as a result of the proposed upgrades.
I note that with the removal of the temporary buildings and the installation of the Cola that there will be new areas of the school grounds which the students can enjoy recreationally, however given the removal of the active 3-6 play equipment, I consider it is now more critical that the current condition of the active basketball courts be addressed, namely:
- 1. the slope of the courts be remedied, and*
 - 2. Suitable shade/sun protection is installed over the courts*
- In particular, the lack of protection from the harsh sun is a concerning issue and should be considered a priority for the Department of Education. It is particularly unbearable during spring and the summer seasons with temperatures on the courts frequently exceeding 40 degrees. It is unsafe and unreasonable for both students and the teachers supervising students to be exposed to the harsh rays.*
There will be a number of beneficiaries if the courts are remedied, including:
- 1. Students and school staff*
 - 2. After School Care providers*
 - 3. Basketball and Netball Sports Clubs*
 - 5. General Community.*

Response: The current scope of work does not include any works relating to the existing basketball courts to the southwest corner of the site. The upgrade project does however include a new multi-purpose Hall that has a larger floor area and higher ceilings than the existing hall, making it more suitable for a range of educational, sporting and recreational uses.

The new hall will be used for before and after school hours care, and there is opportunity for the hall to be shared with the community for events outside school hours.

A new covered outdoor learning area is also proposed which will provide a shaded play space that connects the new hall with the central courtyard. The central courtyard will become a larger, more usable play space due to the removal of the existing hall building that currently occupies the centre of the site.

There may be opportunities in the future for the school to seek separate funding for the upgrade of facilities that are not included in the current project.

Please contact Alfred Jury on 0437200209 or email alfred.jury3@det.nsw.edu.au if further information is required.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Jury', written in a cursive style.

Alfred Jury
Project Director, School Infrastructure NSW
2 November, 2021

