Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College

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13 September 2021

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Attn: Lara Huckstepp

By email council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au

Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College (SSD-10393)

Scientia Project Rooftop Design – Educational Justification Statement

This letter supports the need for changes to the rooftop design for the Scientia Project. It outlines the changes required to meet the educational outcomes for young women as well as the Pastoral and wellbeing benefits to our students, staff and the broader community.

Educational Requirements

The Scientia Project is part of the College's ongoing commitment to the delivery of a world-class educational experience for young women. As a dual curriculum school, offering both the Higher School Certificate and the International Baccalaureate, the College is required to meet the standards of the dual curriculum programmes both now and into the future.

The specialised learning spaces within the building have been designed to accommodate Science, Sports Science and PDHPE curriculum. In particular, careful consideration has been given to the design of the laboratories; which require ducted fume exhausts to enable the use of specific chemicals needed for experimentation and current practices. These exhausts have been designed in line with compliance requirements and as a result require a rooftop exhaust plant area.
It should be noted that a plant area previously included has now been relocated.

Pastoral Benefits

Scientia will create spaces that benefit and enhance the wellness and learning of students, teachers and staff. Equally as important, it will deliver on the College's commitment to the wider North Sydney community to enhance the visual amenity of surrounding areas.

The College conducted extensive community consultation prior to the commencement of the project and incorporated this feedback into the design. From a wellbeing perspective, the rooftop design aimed to provide sun protection, additional space for all-weather outdoor seating and space for active play; incorporating the learnings from the research findings during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The rooftop usable floorspace has been adjusted and maximised to meet these objectives. A design statement by our architects Hayball outlines details of the changes. An additional community benefit of the increased student area is the planting along Miller Street edge of the building has increased.

To provide protection to students and maximise all year usage the social zone to the east of the rooftop has been screened with planting and shading pergolas. Furthermore, this increased length of planting and shade structure provides privacy to our students and staff, an important consideration for a school in the CBD, surrounded by commercial properties and high-density housing.

Following considerations and requirements by an access consultant it was decided that the south east corner be repurposed rather than used as a social zone, as accessibility was hindered, and the adequate supervision made this space complex and minimised value. The green planting and façade heights and detail have not been adjusted in this area.

Miller Street Views

All changes have considered community perspectives from Miller Street and changes are minimal in this regard.

If you have further questions, please contact the College on (02) 9409 6200 or email scientiaproject@monte.nsw.edu.au.

Thank you for your support with these matters.

Regards,

Mrs Nicole Christensen
Principal