
Memorandum

Date: 21 August 2012

To: PMDL

Attn: Andrew Pender, Debra Young

STATEMENT OF LANDSCAPE DESIGN

The Development Application for the swimming pool redevelopment and associated works including the Molly Dive field provides an opportunity for the school to recognise and integrate the numerous systems in place that underpin the organisation of the external spaces to the school and provide the important amenity that is integral to the image of the school as a place of excellence in education. I propose that we work closely with the staff at the school, particularly the ground staff in the facilitation of this strategy plan.

The fundamental approach is to provide a holistic vision and value system for the school grounds. This involves the laying out of the benefits of the environment and landscape that has been created from the beginnings of the school and over the last 15-20 years in particular that have reflected the evolving needs and realisation of the educational requirements of the school in the pursuit of excellence. The importance of the environment as a critical part of the place making at the school needs is central to this vision.

The organisation of the strategy plan will commence with a recognition and review of the current strategies that are in place and integrating these strategies into a holistic blueprint in relation to the landscape setting and systems on the site. This plan recognises the many layered environment that provides positive benefits on many different levels. The strategy would include the following elements:

- Fundamentally the creation of a holistic environment that provides a Centre of Excellence and Learning = respite, contemplation, to encourage an educated life/ career;
- This is facilitated by the creation of an integrated environment consisting of physical strategies that facilitate and support this objective such as;
- Water management strategy including reuse, strategies in relation to minimisation of use (mulches, appropriate species, massing etc.), the provision of bioswales for example;
- Vegetation management strategy in relation to the provision of appropriate open space;
- An analysis of the school grounds from a bio sphere point of view, % of area that can be classified vegetation community i.e.: woodland, forest with canopy, mid-storey and herbaceous/grasses layer, what is substantially canopy and

grass and then other vegetation types that may apply, this relates the value of the campus in relation to bio diversity;

- The recognition of the value of the landscape to the school community being the physiological association with the area for example identification and relation to natural and cultural environment of the north shore and in particular Pymble;

This strategy plan would be then applied in the immediate instance to the DA application for the swimming pool redevelopment as an integral part of the DA application. The plan has broader applications in the relation to providing a holistic view and vision of the grounds and the use of the plan in potential applications to open space awards from a range of organisations and authorities such as the BPN Sustainability Awards, the Parks and Leisure Awards and various State and Federal open space nominations.

Yours faithfully,



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Director