

Michael Cassel
Planning Secretary
The Department of Planning and Environment
12 Darcy Street
Parramatta NSW 2150

Attn: Shiraz Ahmed

25 March 2022

Dear Mr Ahmed,

Lindfield Learning Village Phase 2 and 3 – SSD 8114: Condition of Consent D36 – Community Consultative Committee

I refer to Lindfield Learning Village Phase 2 and 3 development approved on the 12 November 2020.

In accordance, with condition D36 of the Development Consent, a Community Consultative Committee (CCC) has been established as per the Departments *Community Consultative Committee Guidelines: State Significant Projects (January 2019)*.

The Lindfield Learning Village CCC commenced meetings in 2021 following a nomination process for community members. The Committee consists of an Independent Chair, representatives from the Applicant and representatives from the local community, with endorsement received from the Department (Attachment 1).

Council and Transport were invited to join the Committee however declined to participate as official members.

The purpose of the CCC is to provide an independent forum for consultation between the community and project representatives, to discuss key issues of the development which may have major economic, social and environmental impacts.

The Lindfield Learning Village CCC is the first of its kind for a public school and is unusual in that there are no specific Conditions of Approval regarding which it is required to have input or oversight.

To-date five (5) CCC meetings have been conducted between February 2021 and March 2022 and an annual report, capturing the activities of the CCC, was issued to the Department in January 2022.

In January 2021 stage 2 became operational and in September 2021 the project achieved construction completion. As a result, School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) no longer has a project office on-site and day-to-day management of the school site has been handed over to the Department of Education (DoE).

This Committee has been of value as a forum for community engagement through the construction phase and the first year of operation of Stage 2. However, the CCC members have begun to question the purpose of the Committee in 2022 which has moved its attention

to local concerns unrelated to the SSD, rather than key issues directly related to the development which may have major impacts, which is the role of the CCC.

Most recently the following concerns have been identified in relation to the ongoing operation of the Lindfield Learning Village CCC:

- The Lindfield Learning Village CCC has no specific Conditions of Approval regarding which it is required to have input or oversight.
- No new key issues identified of the development which may have major economic, social, and environmental impacts.
- SINSW no longer present onsite and operation of the school has been handed over to DoE.
- CCC members questioning the lack of purpose of the meeting in 2022. One community member has resigned, and a further member identified imminent departure from the Committee.
- Resignation of the CCC Independent Chair (Attachment 2).
- Lack of relevance of the CCC which has moved its attention to concerns unrelated to the SSD.
- Lack of purpose of the CCC and subsequent ending of the committee was socialised in the February 2022 committee meeting

As per CCC guidelines the proponent should tailor their engagement to reflect the scale and nature of the project. The guidelines also state that the ongoing operation of existing committees should only be undertaken to the extent that they are relevant.

The Committee has exercised its functions in accordance with such guidelines. SINSW believe it has fulfilled its obligation under the Development Consent and therefore request that the Lindfield Learning Village CCC cease operation following the next meeting scheduled in April 2022.

The committee members have been notified that SINSW is commencing consultation with DPE for the cessation of the CCC.

The CCC Chair, Abigail Goldberg, will perform her final session as Chair on Thursday 28 April at 5.00pm should DPE representatives wish to attend

Yours sincerely,

Jim Lewis 25/3/2022

Jim Lewis
Senior Project Director
Schools Infrastructure NSW

Attachment 1: DPE approval of Committee members.

Attachment 2: Resignation email from Independent Chair dated 3 March 2022.

Attachment 3: Community-Consultative-Committee-Guideline-31-01-2019.