



9th November 2018

**By Email**

Sandra Hinchey  
Webber Architects

**CATHERINE McAULEY COLLEGE - RESPONSE to COMMENTS ON EIS by NSW DEPT. PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT (DP&E) and the GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT NSW (GA NSW)**

Dear Sandra,

Please find below additional information in response to the Department of the Environment and NSW Government Architect queries regarding how the project has addressed the *NSW Urban Tree Canopy Targets (GA NSW Greener Places)*.

Although Port Stephens Council do not have an Urban Forest Policy the landscape master plan for the proposed Catherine McAuley College incorporates many of the principles outlined in the GA NSW Greener Places Strategy.

The proposed landscape plan increases canopy cover over the site from 11,374m<sup>2</sup> to an estimated total of 28,791m<sup>2</sup>. This provides a total tree canopy cover over the site of approximately 34%. There are currently no identified targets for campuses however in the context of the extent of built form, bushfire management requirements and the open space areas required for sporting fields this is significant coverage over the available site area.

Proposed canopy consists of retained vegetation and new plantings. New plantings are concentrated in breakout areas around classrooms and administration areas, along pathways linking buildings and in carpark areas. These plantings are intended to reduce ambient heat around buildings and hard surface areas and to establish a comfortable environment for students and staff for outdoor learning and recreation.

Planting proposed is primarily native to the area for the purpose of establishing a landscape that is suited to the sites environmental conditions whilst also providing habitat and shelter for native fauna.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries or require any additional information.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Moir". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

**David Moir**  
Director  
Moir Landscape Architecture Pty Ltd