

I am writing in response to the current Community Consultation over aspects of the planned development.

1

The promised public (physical) consultation was interrupted by COVID-19 State Regulations which prevented a physical meeting for the community as has occurred in the past. This is most disturbing. Many of us in the community were awaiting the opportunity to have conversations with the planners and had eagerly anticipated doing so. In the past we have had positive outcomes from such engagement.


2

The links provided to the public for this "consultation" were for **State Significant Development: Chatswood Education Precinct (Upgrades to Chatswood Public School and Chatswood High School)**. This contained 48 consultation links:

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/10561>. They are all to SEARS papers relating to EIS only and are highly technical. They are not the documents the general public needs to see to form an opinion over development changes. In fact such a link is extremely difficult to find and is not evident in the email that was circulated advising of the consultation.

The link appearing on the URL given under "Where can I view detailed plans" promised detailed plans is incorrect:

Detailed plans can be viewed on DPIE's major project's website:

<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/1056> 

This link does not work. It has a space after 'www' in the URL and has omitted the final '1'. Any person seeking to locate it will find it impossible.

The link the community requires is 'hidden' under "Community Updates> Project update March 2020 (PDF) and can only be accessed by expanding "Community Notifications" dropdown halfway down the page.

A more significant link is:

<https://www.schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au/projects/c/chatswood-public-school-chatswood-high-school-upgrades.html>

This error and lack of clarity for the community in seeking actual drawn plans have severely impacted the involvement of the community in responding.

3

There is considerable concern over the height, bulk and proximity to heritage Building B of the proposed 6 storey Building P1 at Chatswood Primary School.

It will impact the aesthetics of existing valued heritage buildings as well as heavily impact upon houses in adjacent James St.

Of particular concern is that drawings or artists impressions that show the impact of Building P1 from James St or when viewed from the play area in front of existing heritage Building B are not supplied.

Acquiring the vacant site adjacent to the school 688-692 Pacific Highway, presently on the market, would eliminate the need for such a tall and overbearing building. This has been

suggested many times by the community as a solution, to which the formal reply has been that it was uneconomical and/or offered insufficient space.

Aerial views show the land to be approximately the current footprint of the heritage Building B, and as such would provide ample room to avoid the present overdevelopment, avoid the need for lifts to classrooms and a rooftop play area and avoid the proposed loss of outdoor playground space.

4

The proposed overly crowded development of the Chatswood Primary site is unnecessary and unwise. There are three reasons:

A The stated goal of catering for 1600 pupils on such a small parcel of land is short-sighted.

B A new school is proposed for Mowbray Rd/Pacific Highway corner once Metro tunnelling is completed which will relieve population pressure on CPS.

C Mowbray Public School is under-utilised and currently has 600 pupils. Its recently completed buildings were designed for its future growth and has large grounds.

5

There are serious errors in the reports recognised by every resident who has sighted these statements. Two examples:

- "The average delay driving from Centennial Ave to Albert Ave. at peak AM and PM times is 28 seconds" . This is impossible. Peak hour congestion at this intersection (crossing the Pacific Highway at peak hour!) is more like 15-25 minutes.
- The reports reference 4 and 8 story residences to the West of the High School. This is a fiction.