To whom it may concern:

RE: Request to reconsider plans outlined in Modification 4 affecting Tiggers daycare

I am writing primarily as a parent, our three year old son currently attends Tiggers Day Care and has attended Tiggers for the last 2 years. I also write as a member of UNSW staff, although I am aware that my views expressed here may not represent those of the University.

As a parent I have been hugely impressed with Tiggers since we first visited the centre. Although, our first concerns were with finding day-care for our child, we very quickly understood that Tiggers is in fact much more than day-care, it is an educational establishment where our children are very fortunate to receive fantastic early-years experiences. One of the distinctive and great features of Tiggers is the garden area at the back of the Facility. This area is currently threatened by Modification 4 and the plan to provide access to High St properties via Arthur Street.

The garden at Tiggers has been a wonderful component of our child's experience and our overall experience at Tiggers. On an almost daily basis it is an opportunity for our kids to witness nature and to undertake 'expeditions', it has helped our kids develop on many levels, it would be a great shame if future generations of Tigger's kids were denied this opportunity. I would like to strongly advocate a review of the current plans to enable Tiggers to retain as much as possible (if not all) of its current footprint, for the sake of the centre. It will be a lesser place without it for all the kids, parents and staff.

It seems to me that Tiggers have come up with a very reasonable plan that preserves much of the existing garden and provides the access required by Kenvale College whist causing least short-term and long-term disruption. I can see no reason why the Tiggers plan should not be adopted instead of the exisiting plan.

Of course I would much prefer a reconsideration of the whole plan so that Tiggers is not affected at all. While I have not followed this closely, my understanding is that these modifications are required so that microscopes in the Lowy building are not adversely affected by vibrations emanating from the light-rail station at its original site. I would be disappointed if the optimal location of the station is being changed for a set of microscopes - my own building has microscopes, laser systems and lithographic equipment and will be right next to the station on Anzac parade - our expectation in the TETB building is that with use of vibration-isolators and given the intermittency of any likely rail induced vibration we should be fine (provided the Light-rail system is well engineered). As with the Lowy building for a well engineering system things ought not be significantly worse than the bus traffic that pre-exists both buildings.

More broadly, as Head of the School of Photovoltaic and Renewable Energy Engineering, I am very keen of public transport initiatives that reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and car transportation. I am very much looking forward to the Light-Rail system opening. Travel to and from UNSW is a major challenge for many staff and students alike. I hope people are wise enough to use the system and I look forward to seeing traffic congestion that we witness everyday can be significantly reduced. In general and specifically in relation to the Tiggers garden I am disappointed in any case where trees, parklands and gardens are to be lost when it is clear that there is sufficient road and parking spaces to accommodate everything.

Yours faithfully,

Professor Darren Bagnall

D. B. J.