

We the Ulladulla Area Schools Expansion Action Group with the support of the Ulladulla High School Parents and Citizens group object to the continuation of this project until the proposed Budawang school is assessed as Stage 1 with Stage 2 the proposed [Ulladulla Milton Middle School (Years 5, 6, 7, 8) this proposal is currently being finalised by the P and C group to put forward to the DoE as the best use for the property for the local school community, this backed by the majority of the greater community as the preferred usage as it helps all schools in the area], assessed for a minimum of 800 students and teachers. This has to occur to provide a safe and functional traffic and pedestrian access to the Budawang school and the Milton Ulladulla Middle school, including onsite parent pickup and drop-off zones for the middle school and the same for buses for the students. The location of the school entrance was never designed for this amount of pedestrian and vehicle traffic and is in an area that is affected by its location to the Princes Hwy lights, Heritage Bakery and surrounding housing which all will determine where parents or buses can stop. There is also access to a pumping station which is an existing no parking area as 24 hour access is required to this.

Our three public schools are overcrowded and this needs fixing now. The ironic and most disturbing thing is that the DoE bought the solution years ago just for this very reason, but are failing to follow through with the plans at the detrimental affect on our children's education and mental health. The amount of social anxiety in our local schools is affecting many families and students and has been for years but is failed to be recognised by the Australian Education Department. We don't have the luxury of suburban students do if they want to move schools as they are more accessible. The only options for our students is to go to Nowra which can be up to two hours each way of travel which is not acceptable. At the time of purchase a budget of \$10 million was allocated for any repairs, maintenance and construction of any new buildings for years 7 and 8 to move to the school. As you will see below our need now is for years 5,6,7,& 8 to be on the Milton SAS site which will see the four public schools with less than cap enrolments, improving pressure on the overcrowding issue at each school and hopefully the mental health of our students and staff.

The following is some information on overcrowding in schools and the relevant link to social anxieties. This can also be seen increased in rural areas where exposure to crowds is minimal. In 1999 the National Centre for Education Statistics narrowed the definition of overcrowding using the following formula:

$$X = \frac{(\text{total student enrolment}) - (\text{capacity of permanent instructional buildings and space})}{(\text{capacity of permanent instructional buildings and space})}$$
 (NCES 2000, 45) (https://martin.uky.edu/.../Cap.../Capstones_2017/shirley.pdf).

(This information is from the USA as there was no studies of this in Australia. These results though show that we definitely need to alleviate student capacities in both primary schools immediately by taking years 5 and 6 to the SAS site and still taking years 7 and 8 from the high school. This will allow all the schools to reassess and probably get rid of all demountable classrooms. They can then look at each school and apply for any infrastructure each needs now space has been freed up. Keep in mind even if the DoE gives the go ahead and a budget of \$10-\$20 million the school won't be ready for any of this for a year or two).

This formula results in a percentage that is then used to determine overcrowding. "When the value of the proportion was over 5 percent and positive, the enrolment exceeded the building's capacity, and the school was considered overcrowded (or overenrolled)" (NCES 2000, 45)
Social Anxiety in Children and Adolescents

Social anxiety is the third most common mental health problem in adults. About 5.5% of adolescents ages 13-18 have been diagnosed with social anxiety, which may be an underestimate given that adult prevalence is about 6.8%. Furthermore, the 2015 Child Mind Institute Children's Mental Health Report stated that 80% of children and adolescents with an anxiety disorder do NOT receive treatment. Since so few children get treatment, the following statistics from the Anxiety and Depression Association of America are not surprising:

- 36% of people with social anxiety disorder report experiencing symptoms for 10 or more years before seeking help.
 - The typical age of onset of social anxiety is 13 years old, but children younger than 8 or 9 can also suffer.
- Symptoms may be so extreme that they disrupt daily life. Students with social anxiety may receive

less attention than other students. Some of the symptoms of social anxiety at school allow the child or adolescent to become almost invisible:

- rarely volunteers to answer questions in class
- “freezes” when called on in class
- speaks so softly the student cannot be heard
- reluctant to give a presentation to the class
- overuse of the restroom during the class period (too often, or stays too long)
- avoids using the restroom at school altogether
- overuse of the nurse (tries to leave school early due to various physical complaints)
- stomach aches, headaches, fatigue, difficulty sleeping

This information from (<https://nationalsocialanxietycenter.com/2016/09/21/social-anxiety-and-school-refusal-part-1/>)

Further studies on this

https://martin.uky.edu/sites/martin.uky.edu/files/Capstone_Projects/Capstones_2017/shirley.pdf

If you want to do further research there are studies on this subject done in Africa, UK and on students in overcrowded camps in Gaza.

The fact is our children are suffering from social anxieties and this affects their education which affects their adult life. They should not be disadvantaged because we live here and as adults it is our job to stand up for them and make sure we get the DoE and NSW Government to acknowledge that our schools are overcrowded and that our students are suffering social anxiety issues because of this and that they will commit to investing in our schools future and develop the SAS site as was intended when purchased.

Now keep in mind these school enrolments numbers were in 2017:

Ulladulla High School - 1208 the cap for Ulladulla High School is 1,220 students. $x = -0.98\%$

(Note: this school alone has 12 demountable classrooms just for special needs classes with some installed this year on the school oval. The school lost 50 students whom left higher years for apprenticeships offered because of Covid19 and government incentives to take on apprentices and the boom in local housing.

Ulladulla Primary School - 735 the cap for Milton Public School is 555 students $x = +32\%$

Milton Primary School - 681 the cap for Ulladulla Public School is 509 students $x = +34\%$

(Note: School caps were supplied by the Department of Education this year)

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