

Darlington Public School Parents and Citizens Association  
Darlington Public School  
Golden Grove St, Darlington NSW 2008

**MP 07\_0158 MOD 2 - Abercrombie Street Precinct**

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing as the President of the Darlington Public School Parents and Citizens (P&C) association to object to the proposed development by the University of Sydney, MP 07\_0158 MOD 2 – Abercrombie Street Precinct, University of Sydney. The school is directly adjacent to the western border of the project.

The P&C have major concerns that relate to the impact of the development on Darlington Public School. Significant issues were raised in earlier consultation in relation to the noise impacts of the project's demolition and construction phase on the Darlington Public School.

The University has failed to consider the potential impacts of the construction's noise, dust and vibration on the operation of the school and the safety and wellbeing of the children.

In the period following the Planning Assessment Committee determination, consultation with Darlington Public School community did not occur until 6 August 2013, which was after work on the site had started.

Noise, dust and contaminant levels have already been shown to be above the limits set for the development through the approval process. The standards that the development is required to meet, prior to and during construction, are not adequate for a development located beside a primary school. **Higher standards need to be set to ensure the children are protected from the impact of noise, dust and contaminants, as they will be in close proximity to the development over a long period of time.**

Children aged between 3 years old to 12 years old will be subject to high levels of dust, contaminants and noise for long days - potentially from 8.30 am to 6 pm – for a period in excess of 18 months (Business School) and longer with a subsequent development on site (Student accommodation).

The School faces the development site, it is designed with louvre windows to capture air and light, windows and doors are not allowed to be closed throughout the year – this is because classrooms need ventilation from open windows and doors to stop classrooms from getting too hot and in winter due to the un-flued gas heaters - the windows and doors need to be open to prevent dangerous fumes building up.

**At the very minimum air conditioning and glazing is required to be installed in classrooms to mitigate the impact of construction on the operation of the school and safety of the children.**

The monitoring of noise and dust is inadequate, for example it is already showing high levels of lead dust, but it does not record the accumulated lead dust that is being dumped on the playground and school desks over a period of time. Complaints were raised during the last DA process about the way the baseline for the noise monitoring was set for the street outside the school and not on the school grounds (on the development side). The noise monitoring cannot accurately measure the impact on the School. **An independent assessment needs to determine the appropriate standards and monitoring for this development being done this close to this School.**

The lack of consideration for the health of the school children is demonstrated in the University locating the car park exhaust and ventilation system within 9 metres of the kindergarten classroom and playground. **The car park exhaust and ventilation system needs to be moved as far away from the children as possible** – this is an unacceptable risk for small children and **designed to minimise any impact on them.**

Darlington School playground contains asbestos and this has been covered and managed by the Department with asphalt and woodchips. The excavation of the driveway will cut past this area within 2 metres. **The excavation and work adjacent to the playground needs to be done during school holidays and have a specific management plan for that area that manages the asbestos risk during the excavation and any subsequent clean-up to ensure the safety of the children.**

**The following five conditions need to be met before the development can continue:**

- 1. Higher standards need to be set to ensure the children are protected from the impact of noise, dust and contaminants, as they will be in close proximity to the development over a long period of time.**
- 2. At the very minimum, air conditioning and glazing is required to be installed in classrooms to mitigate the impact of construction on the operation of the school and safety of the children.**
- 3. An independent assessment needs to determine the appropriate standards and monitoring for this development being done this close to this School.**
- 4. The car park exhaust and ventilation system needs to be moved as far away from the children as possible and designed to minimise any impact on them.**
- 5. The excavation and work adjacent to the playground needs to be done during school holidays and have a specific management plan for that area that manages the asbestos risk during the excavation and any subsequent clean-up to ensure the safety of the children.**

Yours faithfully,

Michael Keating  
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