

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

### **To Whom It May Concern**

I am writing as a parent of a child that attends Darlington Public School to object to the proposed development by the University of Sydney, MP 07\_0158 MOD 2 – Abercrombie Street Precinct, Syd Uni. The school is directly adjacent to the western border of the project.

I 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.

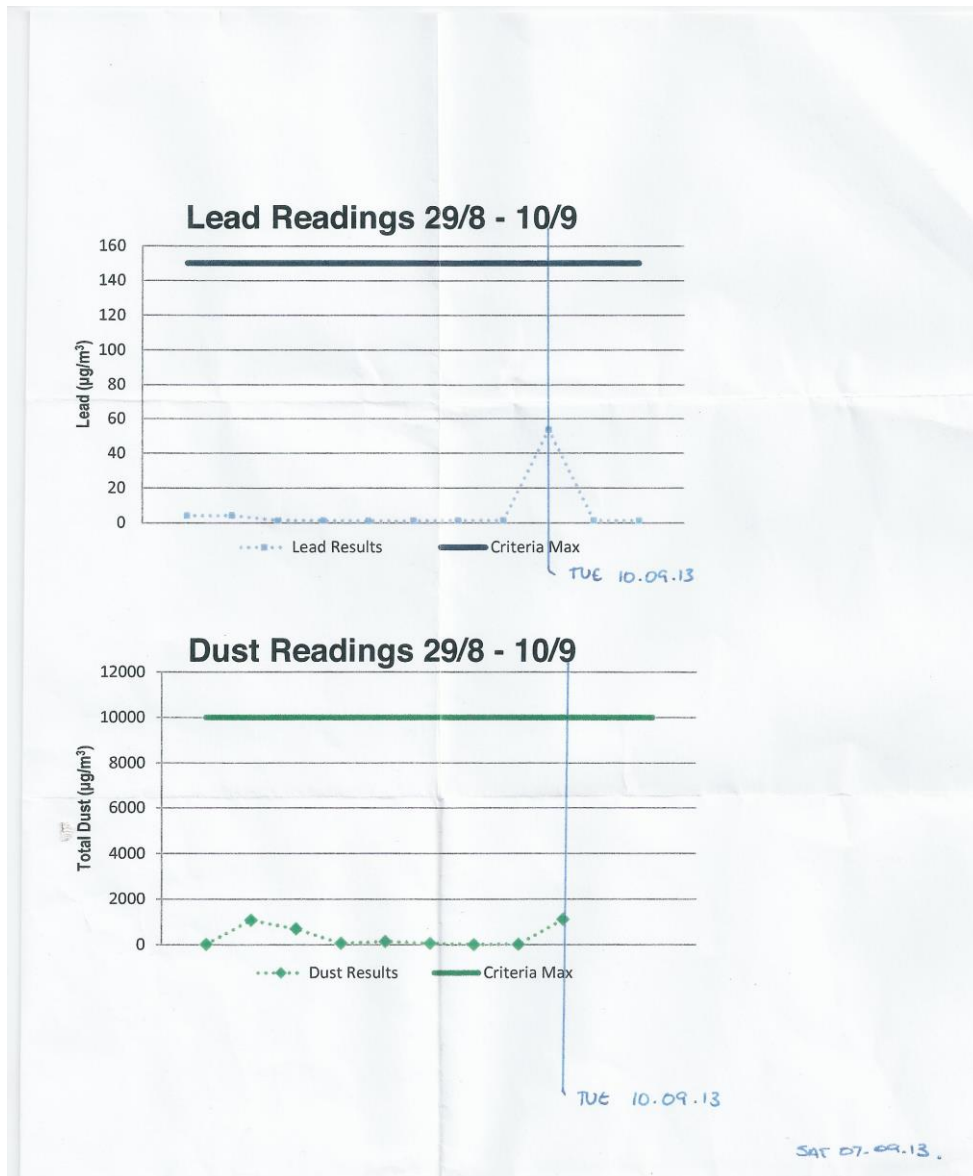
Noise, dust and contaminant levels have already been shown to be above the limits set for the development through the approval process. The standards that the development is required to meet, prior to and during construction, are not adequate for a development located beside a primary school. **Higher 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 on strong wind days, but it does not record the accumulated lead dust that is being dumped on the playground and school desks over a period of time.



When I personally raised this issue after seeing hovering dust on a Saturday morning earlier this month the construction team assured us at a school consultation meeting verbally that they had active dust management procedures. Yet I went to the site 2 days later (see picture) last week and saw no evidence of the dust management procedure he outlined.



Further written complaint to the University after my site visit did not result in improvements in dust management protocols but rather in the production of dust and led results from onsite monitoring that showed them to be within some legally required boundary. You can see from this document attached above that there are clear spikes on high wind days. The feedback from my daughter in year 5 is that the dust caused breathing difficulties and her eyes to water both in the playground and during class.

Specifically their read out indicates that when there is no wind whatever amount of lead they are digging through effectively does not become airborne enough to reach the monitors. But last week on a single day it went up from 2 pts. the day before to 55+ pts.

Further these results we were told were 'the average for the construction area' and there is no monitor within school grounds.

**My issue with all this is they create loose soil and thus dust but cannot control it 24/7.**

Whatever they are required to do, whether we know what that is or not, is only required during construction hours. But both Boundary Lane, the Darlington Aftercare and some of the teachers are around till 6 pm and their windows and doors are open that whole time so **rooms are being coated with dust and lead whenever it is blowing a strong wind.** On cooler days the kindergarten and preschool classrooms have their doors shut while teaching but will need to leave them open when it warms up. So they will be progressively coated in lead all day and more in summer. Remember while the digging is limited the gaping hole will be generating dust for 9 months.

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 away from development 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 current modifications with 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 this **must be re-designed to minimise any impact on them** rather to be directed back into the site.

**The noise impact is already beyond the limits** defined in the development application report by Marshal Day Acoustics.

**REPORT No.:** 001 R03 201009de

**PROJECT:** ABERCROMBIE PRECINCT REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT NOISE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The University provides test results which the school publishes on our website. Here is the update for a single week which shows the noise is already over the limit of the development application.

<http://www.darlington-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/documents/8224492/8231235/Abercrombie%20Precinct%20Weekly%20Update%20Aug%2012.pdf>

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 points 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. Self-monitoring by the University has proven inadequate to date.
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.