



Merewether High School

"An academically selective school for high potential and gifted students"

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14 December 2021

Ms Kendall Clydsdale
Regional Assessments
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
4 Parramatta Square
12 Darcy Street
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

Dear Ms Clydsdale

**Newcastle Jockey Club New Stables Complex (SSD-12982045) – 125 Chatham Street,
Broadmeadow NSW**

I refer to communications between your Department and the Department of Education's Mark Walmsley, Group Leader, School Infrastructure NSW, in relation to the above development application. I note that Mr Walmsley was advised that the school was given an extension of time to lodge this submission as the school did not receive any notification of the application (neighbours have advised they received a notification dated 14 October 2021 on or about 17 October 2021).

The school has a number of concerns regarding the proposed development:

1. Traffic management during construction (see attached School Site Map) – pedestrians, bike riders and vehicles.

Having read the proposal documents, I cannot find any reference to the fact there is a large government school (ie Merewether High School ("MHS")) directly across the road at 130 Chatham Street, Broadmeadow, which is located between the construction zone of Darling and Dumaresq Streets, Broadmeadow. In particular, I refer to the Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS"), Appendix 26, Attachment 1 "The Preliminary Construction Management Plan, prepared by Gateshead Traffic Solutions dated 19 July 2021 ("Traffic Solutions Plan"). This document does not propose any safety measures that may mitigate our concerns.

MHS is a selective high school with almost 1,100 students and approximately 100 staff. Being a selective high school, MHS has students who attend from all over the Newcastle/Hunter region; students arrive on public and school buses, bicycles, foot and car (either dropped off by parents or drive themselves).

Numerous buses stop to drop off and collect the students in the morning and afternoon; the main bus stop is located on the school side of Chatham Street (Gate #3). Please refer to Attachment 1. Map of the School.

Classes commence each day at 8.50am and finish at 3.10pm (except on Friday, where classes finish at 2.30pm). Buses arrive each day between 8:00 am and 8:50 am, and in the afternoon between 3:00 pm and 4:00 pm. During these times, other students are dropped off by parents in vehicles, arrive on bicycles and walk (and staff are arriving and leaving from Gates 1 and 4). A large proportion of students and staff use Gates 1-4 to enter and exit the school grounds each day. These gates are also used by emergency vehicles, delivery drivers, contractors and visitors.

Pedestrians and bike riders use our main pedestrian gate for entry/exit (Gate #2 and 3). Students who drive a vehicle to school park on streets surrounding the school.

There is a flagged crossing (ie it does not have a painted crossing on the ground) near the main car pedestrian entrance (Gate #2); this crossing is the only marked crossing for students on Chatham Street and falls within the construction zone.

The Traffic Solutions Plan notes the following:

5.2. Impact on Traffic Flow

This says, “proposed road closure is not expected to cause any traffic delays”.

However, Appendix 3 “Pedestrian Detour Map” shows that part of the road on the NJC side of Chatham Street will be closed off to allow for construction and that pedestrians will be detoured onto the side of the road where cars would otherwise be parked.

5.8. Heavy Vehicles

Stage 1 – the proposal is for heavy vehicles to enter via Chatham Street and exit via Darling Street.

There are currently two access gates from Chatham Street into the NJC – one is approximately 60 metres away from the school road crossing (towards Darling Street) and the other entrance is the current car park entrance.

5.9. Residents/Business Impacts

“Residents and Businesses’ will not be impacted by this project”.

6. Traffic Control Devices

6.1. to 6.4. indicates that there will not be any additional traffic management systems, e.g. speed zoning, temporary traffic signals.

The examples above indicate that the existence of the school in proximity to the NJC has not been recognised in this proposal.

Required

A full assessment of traffic management which includes the safety of the school and community.

2. Traffic management after construction

(reference: EIR, Appendix 26)

The proposal shows the use of two driveways off Chatham Street into the new development; one being the Maintenance Drop Off Area. As noted above under "5.8 – Heavy Vehicles" this driveway is approximately 60 metres from our school crossing.

This is a concern given the number of students/staff using this road as noted above.

Given the size of the complex of the NJC it is suggested that other access points be explored to minimise the heavy traffic on Chatham Street and impacts on safety of our school community.

3. Two storey stables being built closer to the school which means increased odour and pests (mainly flies).

(reference: EIR, Appendix 8)

The proposal is for an increase in capacity to stable horses of approximately 67%. It appears the only ventilation within the stables for the horses is through louver windows and I note that it is anticipated that the bedding within the stalls will be cleaned out twice a day and moved to waste bins ready for collection.

The school already experiences odours coming from the existing stables (located off Darling Street) and we have had to install fly screens to keep flies out of buildings.

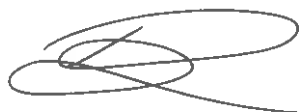
The proposal brings the stables closer to the school and therefore concerns are raised for increased odour and pest issues for the school community.

4. Noise during construction

The main issue regarding increased noise during construction is that students who are sitting exams for the HSC (both trials in April and final exams during October and November) will not be adversely affected with excess noise during their exams.

If you wish to discuss any of the issues raised, please contact me on (02) 4969 3855 or via email at rochelle.dooley.nsw.edu.au.

Yours faithfully



Rochelle Dooley
Principal