

**Submission from:**

[REDACTED]

*Please withhold name and address from publication*

**Application Name:** Meadowbank Education and Employment Precinct Schools Project – Modification 4 – SSD-9343-Mod-4

**Have you made any reportable political donations:**

We have not made any reportable political donations.

As parents of a student at Marsden High School we are deeply concerned about some of the proposed deletions of pedestrian infrastructure improvements around the new Meadowbank Education Precinct, especially about the deletion of the footpath on the Western side of Hermitage Road.

We believe that the deletion of infrastructure to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists would be negligent and endanger the safety of students. The suggestion that there will be minimal demand and low expected usage of Hermitage Road by pedestrians and cyclists is hard to comprehend, considering that many students are residing north and west of the school. For the many students from the suburbs of Ermington, Dundas, and Rydalmere, the most direct route would be to catch a bus along Victoria Road, use the Hermitage Road Bus Stop and walk along Hermitage Road to school. Without an adequate footpath on the western side of the road those children will have to walk along the eastern side of Hermitage Road, with heavy vehicles accessing the industrial sites and posing a risk for students' safety. If all students residing north of the school are expected to access the school via Bowden Street it will lead to unnecessary congestion; given the large school population it seems prudent to ensure that the school can be accessed safely from different directions.

We had grave concerns about the safety of students travelling to and from school from the very day this site was proposed as the new school site, due to the large school population and the location of the school in a busy industrial area with limited parking options and already heavy traffic. Those concerns were voiced by many parents, and it is very disappointing to see that the necessary upgrades to infrastructure that were promised are now cut back on, to the detriment of student's safety.

We therefore strongly object to the deletion of Condition B44(a) and ask that the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment will ensure that students will be able to access the school in the safest possible way by insisting on the installation of adequate pedestrian and cyclist paths and pedestrian crossings.

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15/12/2021