

Re: Curl Curl North Public School Redevelopment

Playfair Road, North Curl Curl

Application Number: SSD 17_8310

Curl Curl Lagoon Friends (CCLF) is a community environmental organisation that has worked for the past 37 years to rehabilitate, protect and preserve the Lagoon and its surrounds. Our membership is comprised of approximately 300 families in the school's intake area, with a newsletter and communications reach to over 2,500 households.

For decades, CCLF has partnered with Curl Curl North Public School students, teachers, principals and administrative staff to care for the health of the ecosystem. The school is located within the lagoon's catchment area and is fortunate enough to be right on the doorstep of the lagoon's riparian zone, waterway and bushland. Students have been involved in planting native reeds, cleaning up and removing rubbish as well as participating in scientific studies in collaboration with CCLF.

We have been involved in educating students regarding the environment, history and heritage of the local area and seek to see these principals of respecting the natural environment preserved in the new development.

Key components of our common aims are: waste minimisation, habitat preservation, pollution prevention and restoration of fragile ecosystems.

We are supportive of the school redevelopment in principle, but it is conditional upon the following concerns being adequately addressed.

1. **Hard surfaces** – we note an apparent increase in hard surface : permeable surface ratio within the school grounds. These include extensive paving in the Central Play area as shown on the Landscape Master Plan, the use of synthetic turf on proposed new Futsal Fields, and an overall larger building footprint. An increase in hard surfaces so close to the lagoon are undesirable, and in fact, contribute to further degradation of the lagoon.

We note the provisions in the Stormwater Management Plan and Sediment & Erosion Control Plan to filter run off and capture sediment and waste.

We advocate, however, for consideration of alternative surfaces to paving and astroturf that allow for better absorption of rainfall and filtration of soluble pollutants. We seek for the DoE's participation in our efforts to improve the outlook of the already-fragile lagoon's ecosystem rather than exacerbating the very conditions that put it at risk.

2. **Tree preservation** – The school is home to large and established native trees that contribute to the overall sympathetic character of the school within its locale. These trees cool the playgrounds, allow for passage of native fauna and, significantly for the lagoon, prevent erosion and soil loss.

The EIS, however, does not provide detail for how trees identified as high-value in the arborist's

report will be protected during demolition and construction. Any damage to branches and roots could result in the loss or disfigurement of these trees.

We ask for protection measures to be detailed and their approval made a condition of acceptance.

3. **Traffic management** - The EIS states that the hours of work for the proposed development will be 7am - 5pm Monday to Friday and 8am - 1pm on Saturdays. The sporting fields located in John Fisher Park (directly surrounding the lagoon) are high-use areas on Saturdays during the winter sporting season. Parking is at a premium and local streets are used for parking. Traffic is busy and congested during this period, and it is highly likely that trucks attempting to enter and leave the school grounds by the proposed routes will experience access difficulty and significant delays.

Pedestrian safety is already a concern during the height of the netball season given that this is the centralised home of netball for the entire Northern Beaches. Adding trucks to this equation in winter will place pedestrians at further risk given the already-unsafe parking practices that are common during this period.

We ask that the Department consider reducing truck activity during winter sports season on Saturdays.

4. **Heritage** – Many of our members are alumni of the school, their children are alumni of the school, or have children who are current students of the school. We have heard from our membership on the subject of preservation of the timber classrooms and administration block. While the heritage assessor did not assign value to these buildings, the local community feels otherwise. The timber buildings with gracious verandahs are a link with the origin of the school, and have been the heart of operations on the campus for decades.

We grant that it is impractical to preserve them in their current state and position, we do ask for consideration to be given to how elements of the buildings could be incorporated into the new design.

Rather than a simplistic dismissal of their inclusion in the school's future, we advocate for vestiges of the buildings to be meaningfully utilised – potentially in Block E or as part of the playground. We'll leave that to the designers and architects who – were they worth their salt – would find a sympathetic way to reuse and recycle rather than simply send to landfill. After all, these are the principles we have sought to instill in the students of this school.

5. **Land Adjoining Public Space** – The Warringah Development Control Plan 2011 stipulates that development on land adjoining public open space is to complement the landscape character and public use and enjoyment of the adjoining parks, bushland reserves and other public open spaces. The allowance in the EIS for a 2.1 m high palisade fence to be constructed at the school boundary is not in keeping with this provision.

The construction of such a fence is inconsistent with the surrounding streetscape and is inappropriate for the area – nowhere else in the suburb is a fence of this kind installed. Its construction will require the unnecessary removal of further native vegetation from site.

We urge the Department to consider a lower boundary fence more in keeping with the existing

streetscape and local area.