



OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE PARRAMATTA

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12 August 2016

Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001



Re: SSD 7534 – Western Sydney Stadium Concept Proposal and Stage 1 Demolition (SSD 7534)

Attention: Director – Social and Other Infrastructure Assessments

Please find below items of concern for Our Lady of Mercy Parramatta (secondary Catholic independent school, with approximately 1000 students in 2018) regarding the abovenamed proposal:

- Parramatta Pool closure: this will constitute a significant loss of a recreational facility in the local area and, of course, for us at OLMC. Additionally, there has been no announcement and is no certainty of timing and location of a new pool in the local area. The OLMC PDHPE Department has used the pool extensively for our aquatics program over many years, which will be near impossible to run due to the distance of the nearest pool and the need to run the program during the school day.
- Noise and crowd management. The College is concerned about the increase in frequency of events taking place during term time, therefore creating noise and crowd management issues flowing to the College being in such close proximity to the Stadium. This will not only result in disruption and access to the schools in the area, but cause safety and duty of care concerns for staff and students. Additionally, increased rubbish, graffiti and vandalism on site is likely to occur which is not conducive to our school environment.
- Parking: OLMC has no onsite parking for teaching or support staff. 50 OLMC staff members currently park at the stadium on a lease arrangement. Additionally, it is estimated 10 visitors attend the College each day that park at the stadium (being a mixture of parents, building contractors, and casual staff). The construction of the Stadium will result in constrained availability of parking in surrounding streets for many members of the public including our employees. The parking in North Parramatta is metered and the cost to our staff to access the school is becoming problematic and is likely to affect OLMC's ability to attract and retain staff. Current parking permits with the stadium cost \$2,340 p.a. per staff member in post-tax dollars. While this cost is significant, the availability of parking in close proximity has provided convenience to staff members in accessing the College. With the removal of parking availability at the Stadium staff members will likely need to park at great distances away from the College, requiring them to carry IT equipment and teaching materials to be taken to and from work, which is unacceptable from a work health and safety perspective.

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- There are a concentrated number of schools in the area being: Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta, St Patricks Primary School, North Parramatta Public school, and the proposed new Public School on the old Kings site. All schools in the area hold various school events throughout the year. It is not foreseeable where these parents would be able to park during the school day.
- Land immediately opposite the stadium is currently vacant however development approval has recently been granted for a mixed use development within this land comprising approximately 75 residential apartments and a three storey commercial building providing an approximate office floor space of 7,000m². Consideration must also be given to the additional demand on parking, traffic congestion and the effect of simultaneous major capital projects taking place in the precinct.

OLMC Parramatta does not support the demolition of Parramatta swimming pool due to the loss of a significant public facility with no concurrent replacement. It is our view the pool should remain in situ and the alignment of the new Stadium should be reconsidered to incorporate the pool. In principle the stadium development and expansion will result in a good public facility, however the pool should not come at its expense.

With predicted rapid population growth in the Parramatta region (Sydney's second CBD), we have serious concerns regarding traffic management in the precinct, and accordingly safety of our staff and students. While it is noted the light rail construction will commence in 2018 and is due to be completed in 2023, this leaves insufficient access to parking in the area during this period and significant traffic implications for the precinct. Our overarching concern relates to student and general public safety due to traffic concentration and congestion.

The impact of simultaneous significant developments taking place in North Parramatta needs to be considered cumulatively i.e. Western Sydney stadium, new O'Connell Street Public school, 75 residential apartments and commercial premises and light rail construction to formulate a realistic plan regarding access to required facilities in North Parramatta. Stakeholder consultation is required to enable this. I would like to point out no schools or surrounding businesses have been consulted in the Stakeholder and Community Consultation Outcome report.

Regards,



Stephen Walsh
Principal
Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta