

28 November 2017

Re: Application Number –SSD 7503 Educational Establishment/ School to be built on the current site of Ultimo Public School, Quarry Street, Ultimo

I have not made any reportable political donations or gifts in the past 2 years

Please do not publish my name and address

Objections and submission:

Having seen preliminary plans for the school which have been shown to the teachers, parents, community members and students at Ultimo Public School, I am impressed by the overall design of the school. The attractive design features allow for the maximum amount of natural lighting to reach classrooms and include three playgrounds and a community garden area.

However, there are two areas that I object to:

#### 1. Parking

In the 'SEARs Request' (11<sup>th</sup> February, 2015), the description of the proposed development states:

“At this stage, existing parking, access, traffic and transport arrangements would be maintained at the new upgraded school.”

However, the latest SEARs Report (dated 7 March, 2016) does not even include this 'existing parking' in the current school. Considering the new school will be increasing in capacity from a current school population around 290 students to the proposed 800 students, there is no mention of how teachers will access their workplace apart from by 'sustainable travel' which appears to mean by public transport, walking and by bicycle. This is completely unrealistic for at least half of the current staff who live over half an hour away from the school and drop their pre-schoolers at childcare centres on the way to school. There is no provision for staff who may have temporary or permanent mobility issues or who live a long way from public transport options. Failure to supply parking for staff, students, parents and visitors with disabilities will not meet Disability Standards for Education 2005<sup>1</sup>

To simply remove the option of teachers driving to work under the phrase 'sustainable travel' disadvantages the current staff who applied for their

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.education.gov.au/disability-standards-education-2005>

positions in the belief that they could access their workplace by car. It is a change of conditions of employment that have been established common practice. It is knowingly introducing a health and safety hazard to require staff to transport their many requisite resources by carrying them on public transport. Significant penalties apply to departmental executives who fail to manage known safety hazards.

## 2. Air-Conditioning

The current school has air-conditioning / heating in all rooms.

However, the latest SEARs Report (dated 7 March, 2016) does not mention air-conditioning or heating. This is despite the teachers originally being informed that replacement schools include air-conditioning/heating if the original school has it.

Resorting to use of passive air flow is incompatible with the location of the school adjacent to a planned exhaust stack for the Westconnex, between busy CBD thoroughfares of Wattle Street, Fig Street and Harris Street. Windows will be closed to protect students and staff from noise and from air pollution. Failure to provide air conditioning, under these circumstances, when city temperatures are forecast to increase, is failing to mitigate a foreseeable hazard. Significant penalties apply to departmental executives who fail to manage known safety hazards.

If the reasoning behind this decision is to reduce the consumption of energy and presumably the cost of energy, the installation of solar panels would easily cover the cost and environmental concerns of using electricity to cool and heat classrooms.