

GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT NEW SOUTH WALES

PROJECT: Edmondson Park School
RE: SDRP SESSION 79 – 23.06.2021 (second SDRP review)

Dear Matt,

30 July, 2021

Matt Rheuben
Project Director
Infrastructure Delivery

Via email –
matt.rheuben@det.nsw.edu.au

Thank you for the opportunity to review the above project. Please find below a summary of advice and recommendations arising from the design review session held on Wednesday 23rd^h June 2021.

The design clearly responded to advice from the previous SDRP and exhibited strong potential for good design outcomes. The following elements of the design were supported:

- the commendable response to connecting with Country, specifically the level of engagement with local Aboriginal community and the resulting range of initiatives incorporated into the project
- site planning and landscape design as contextual and place-specific, including; the arrival, play and gathering spaces, extent of tree canopy, pedestrian connections and synergies with Country.
- architectural expression of the facades and building-form generally.

The following commentary and advice are to be addressed during the design development of this project and as part of the RtS:

Connecting with Country

1. To support on-going project integration with Country, the following was recommended;
 - a. maintain and increase the level of engagement and learning about Country across all project stages (from design to School operations), include strategies for feedback and reciprocity with the local Aboriginal community
 - b. develop a strategy for implementing connecting with Country initiatives beyond the design stage.
2. The following was supported - as reflecting the consultation process;
 - a. the shift from a generic Yarning Circle to a less formalised gathering, community and story-telling space. Consider options to reframe/rename this space as part of the consultation process.
 - b. material selections informed by knowledge of Aboriginal trade routes
 - c. site planning and landscape initiatives (refer *Masterplan and Landscape*).
 - d. landscape and architectural material palettes reflective of a pre-colonial landscape
3. Incorporate opportunities afforded by the site's location at the confluence of three language groups. Avoid ignoring individual language groups, rather embrace the opportunity.

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Masterplan and Landscape

4. The site planning and landscape design of the central north/south corridor and the site's perimeter were supported, with good design outcomes predicated on the inclusion and delivery of the following;
 - a. the diverse range of spaces for play, learning and gathering (e.g. the central stand of trees and small discrete learning spaces)
 - b. visual and physical connections to adjacent parks (north & south) and to the future High School site and Faulkner Way (east and west), including opportunities for community access
 - c. 40% or greater canopy cover
 - d. the forecourt entry, as a generous and welcoming extension of the public domain -enabling connections to Clermont Park
 - e. site perimeter planting, specifically the stand of trees at the northwest corner - providing a landscape connection to Clermont Park.
5. Country was noted as well represented in the landscape design, through learning spaces with an ecological focus, material selections, approach to canopy, and re-establishing the local ecology through plant selection.
6. The following recommendations were made;
 - a. optimise the Buchan Avenue forecourt as welcoming, inclusive and multifunctional - minimise barriers and maximise flexibility for community gatherings/events. Develop the gates, fence and landscape as place-specific elements.
 - b. continue to work closely with the Department's security team regarding fence and gate options to 'open up' the forecourt
 - c. provide adequate budget for landscape outcomes (specifically in regard to value management), to ensure design quality and proposed scope is maintained in delivery.

Built-form and Accessibility

7. The Faulkner Way entry was not supported as currently illustrated. Provide a more welcoming and readily identifiable entry (in the context of the façade's uniformity), include weather protection via awnings or other elements.
8. For all arrival scenarios (e.g. staff, visitors and students with access needs), ensure equitable and accessible routes within the site are available, include dignity issues of directness and weather protection. Specifically address the route from the southern entry /car park to the southern end of the main north-south building.

The project should address and incorporate the above comments through the RtS.

Please contact GANSW Design Advisor, Angus Bell (Angus.Bell@planning.nsw.gov.au), if you have any queries regarding this advice.

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Sincerely,



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Chair, SDRP

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