

SYDNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL



15 June 2021

NSW Department of Planning, Industry & Environment
4 Parramatta Square
12 Darcey Street
Parramatta
NSW 2150

Attention: Prity Cleary
Senior Planner, Social and Infrastructure Assessments Infrastructure Assessments
Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124
Prity.Cleary@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms Cleary,

Weigall Sports Complex, Sydney Grammar School (SSD-10421)

My letter dated 19 May 2021, the NSW Department of Planning and Industry (**DPIE**) requested additional clarification on how the strategic need for the Weigall Sports Complex project balanced with or outweighed the impacts on the community and residential amenity. This letter explains Sydney Grammar School's (**SGS**) strategic need for this project and confirms our commitment to minimising adverse impacts on the local community.

In planning the Weigall Sports Complex, SGS sought to improve facilities and safety for our students while minimising adverse amenity impacts for our neighbours and the wider Paddington and Rushcutters Bay community. This balance is encapsulated in our five guiding principles for the project which state:

- **A masterplan** for the site having regard for the opportunities and constraints of the site
- **Minimal impact and maximum opportunities for the community**
- Facilities to foster **The Whole Child** in our care
- An **Exemplar Building** that fits within the context of the neighbourhood
- A **Consolidation of sporting facilities**, which are currently spread across Sydney, to improve child protection, supervision and transport.

Each year, SGS educates 1,150 students at College Street, 350 students at Edgecliff and 450 students at St Ives. The benefits of the Weigall Sports Complex for these existing and future students and our staff is considerable. Reduced travel times to weekly training sessions and competition, improved facilities to encourage student participation and commitment to sport, fitness and healthy lifestyles and most importantly improved child protection. Further to this, public facilities currently hired by SGS will be freed up to the wider community.

Aware of the NSW State Government and Woollahra Council's support for shared use of school facilities, external organisations will be able to use the Weigall Sports Complex (organisations could

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parking, and acoustic amenity. Critical to SGS and the wider Paddington/Rushcutters Bay communities, the project retains the existing sports fields which form "the green valley floor".

We acknowledge that there will be an impact on local residents during the construction phase. We are committed to appointing a reputable builder and we are committed to working with the community to minimise these impacts by convening a community liaison committee who will work with SGS and the community to minimise this (relatively) short term impact.

Sydney Grammar considers these sporting facilities as a fundamental and integral part of developing our students into well rounded people who will contribute in a positive way to society in the future.

SGS has been in integral part of the Paddington community since 1907 through development of the Weigall Fields and the Preparatory School. In the same way that the Weigall Fields were developed to enhance the sporting activities and capabilities at SGS, so too will the development of the new Weigall Sports Complex be regarded as an important school and community asset. We believe that rather than being at odds with community and residential amenity, it is a building the fits well with the urban fabric providing local and regional benefits.

We trust that you will consider our application favourably.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R Malpass'.

Dr Richard Malpass

Headmaster, Sydney Grammar School