

2 March 2020

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Attention: Anna Wang – Senior Consultant

RE: Alterations and Additions to Meriden School (SSD-9692) – Request for Additional Information

Dear Anna,

I refer to comments received from Strathfield Council (Council) in regard to the Draft Conditions of Consent for the State Significant Development (SSD) application (reference: SSD-9692) for the Alterations and Additions to Meriden School (the Site) dated 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020. Specifically, the Department for Planning, Industry & Environment (DPIE) has requested that a response be provided to Council Comments.

Council's ultimate recommendation is that the DPIE give consideration to granting a Deferred Commencement Consent so Council can be provided with further information, despite not previously providing comments on the SSD application prior to the Draft Conditions of Consent being issued.

Our response is provided herein.

### **Council Comments**

The following details the specific comments in relation to the additional traffic assessment request received from Council:

*The Transport Assessment provided the following figures on the current student enrolment and staff number:*

- *A total of 1,254 students, comprising*
  - *424 students in the Junior School*
  - *830 students in the Senior School*
- *242 staff, comprising*
  - *156 full-time staff and 86 part-time staff*

*It is evident that the existing traffic conditions including network performance, active and public transport, pick up/drop off and parking arrangement are only a true reflection of the impact associated with the current student enrolment and staff level.*

*For a new cap of 1,550 students across all three campuses as proposed by the applicant, it is in fact an increase of 296 students from the current enrolment. Assuming all assumptions such as travel mode, car occupancy, etc still stand, the actual additional traffic generation would be almost five times of the traffic generation derived based on an increase of 50 students as per the Transport Assessment.*

*The Draft Conditions A8 and A9 would permit up to 970 students in the Senior School Campus. Should the development be granted, there would be an increase of up to 140 students in the Senior School Campus alone.*

*The issue here is that the applicant fundamentally failed to acknowledge the link between the current traffic condition and the actual enrolment, and substantially underestimated the transport impact associated with the proposed changes. The implications on the road network cannot be concisely identified.*

**Ason Group Response**

The traffic and transport assessment undertaken establishes a baseline situation, consistent with the requirements of the RMS *Guide to Traffic Generating Developments*, based on traffic counts surveys of the existing road network.

The impacts of the additional trips generated as a direct result of the alterations proposed has then been assessed (in compliance with RMS guidance). Based on 50 additional students across the Senior School, this would result in an additional 27 vehicle trips per hour (vph) and 22vph in the morning and afternoon peak hour respectively.

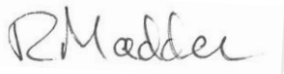
The assessment of the study network has shown that the intersections currently operate satisfactorily, with spare capacity. Further, it has shown that the addition of the volume of trips associated with 50 students, has no material impact on the operation of the key intersections assessed.

Whilst it is acknowledged that the School may currently be operating within its approved capacity, this is a reflection that the enrolment of the School fluctuates, and it would be expected to change with each year. The request for 50 additional students to be included in the approved capacity reflects the increase in class sizes that could be achieved as part of the proposed alterations.

Nevertheless, it is critical to note that Meriden's Senior School campus currently has a student cap of 900 students, which was approved by Council in September 2014 as part of DA2014/023. Therefore, it is concluded that Council has already found that the traffic and transport implications related to a student capacity of 900 students acceptable. Therefore, assessment of an additional 50 students is entirely appropriate in this instance.

I trust the above adequately responds to the DPIE's request for a response to Council's Comments information pertaining to SSD-9692. Should the DPIE have any further queries, please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Butler-Madden

**Senior Transport Planner – Ason Group**

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