

To whom it may concern,

I am the owner of 5v5 Futsal, a long running local community based 5-a-side futsal competition. I have organised these competitions since 2016.

Unfortunately, there is no indoor public basketball/futsal court in Chatswood and our community of futsal players have had to settle for playing on artificial turf.

Although currently our only location is in Middle Cove, we promote our competition as '5v5 Futsal - Chatswood' with the vision of eventually having a local facility, appropriate for running legitimate (indoor) futsal competitions. We also have plans to offer indoor basketball competitions.

I wish to formally register my interest in the use of the planned sporting facilities forming part of the proposed development of Chatswood Primary/High schools, as one who has had a successful history of organising community based futsal competitions over the past 4 years.

As a former student of both schools, I remember the need for an indoor sports facility was often stated. Teachers often expressed the need for space to cater for a range of indoor school sports, and I am confident this is still the case. Provision for indoor sports remains problematic.

I attended the Chatswood Education Precinct Information Session held in October last year and had the chance to speak with the project manager. He explained that my two obvious options were Building T (High School site), which only houses one court, and building G (Primary School site), which although proposed as the main community facility, appears to be too small to fit a futsal/basketball court.

Although a single rooftop court is planned for the back of the primary school site this is adjacent to houses and will not meet the needs of community sports competitions.

Two courts could be successfully situated next to each other under one roof separated by the use of a hanging net. A single indoor court will not meet the timetabling needs of a high school, particularly in wet weather. Further, it is not possible for a single indoor court to meet the demands of the various sports groups in our community such as futsal, basketball, badminton, gymnastics etc.

An ideal solution to all the above problems remains the purchase of the properties adjacent to Chatswood Primary School on the Pacific Highway (688-692 Pacific Highway). This additional space is adjacent to a park and would eliminate any impact on residential areas. A building of 4 storeys on this site along with one of more acceptable scale in place of the planned 6 (??) storey Building P2 would meet both classroom and sporting needs.

I wish to propose two options:

- 1 That reconsideration be given to the purchase of 688-692 Pacific Highway (now vacant).

This would allow for the extension of Building G to accommodate two indoor courts. Such a solution would be preferable to its proposed use as residential apartments, which would be located on an island of land alienated from the community and accessed only from the busy highway.

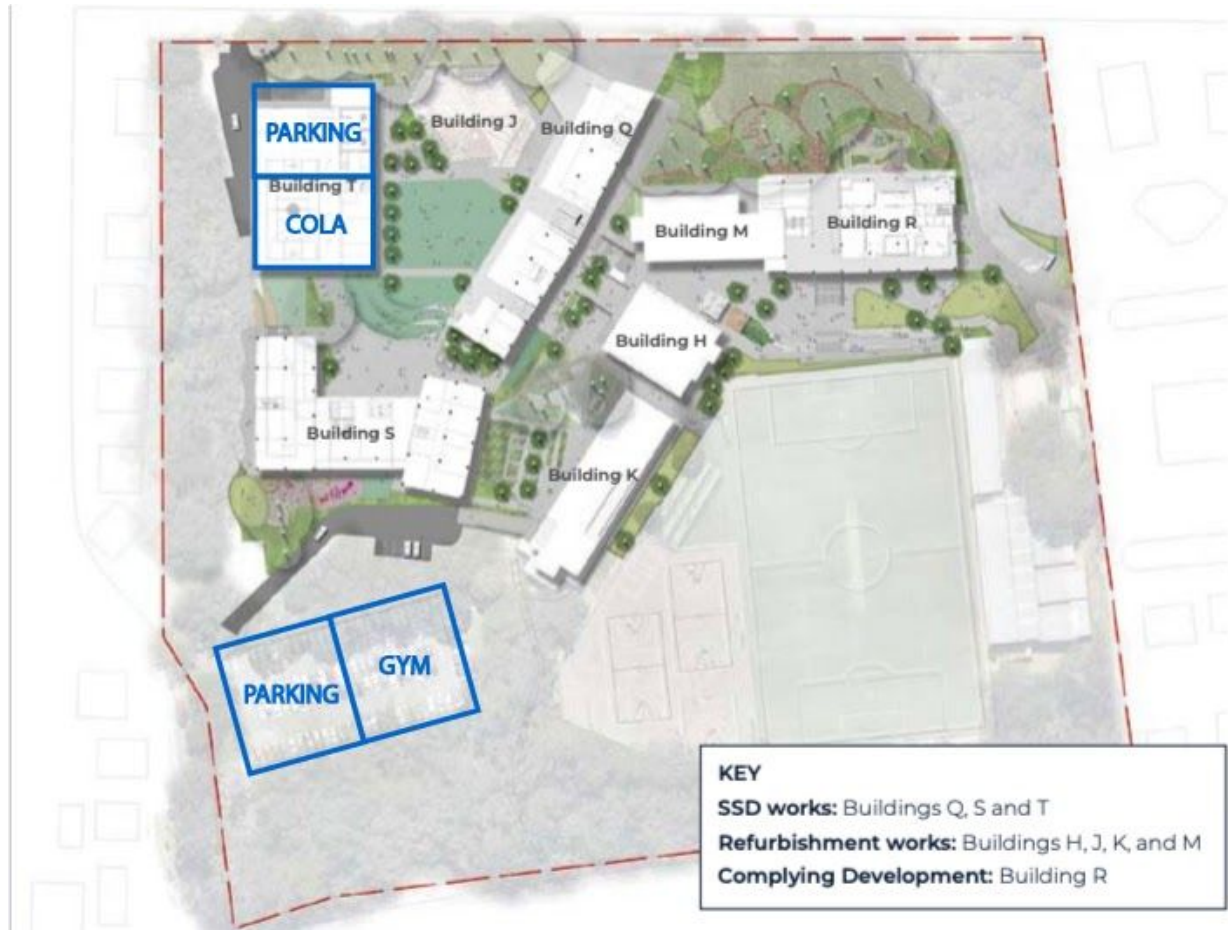
- 2 The development at Chatswood High School of a dedicated, double court, sports hall/gymnasium on the existing car park off De Villiers Ave (see image below). A standard basketball court is 30 x 15 metres. The site I suggest for this building can easily fit a building with two courts side by side as well as amenities, while avoiding all major trees.

This allows the repurposing of building T for more appropriate uses as it is adjacent to houses and situated more centrally within the school. It also offers superior integration with the play area of the quadrangle possibly forming part of a COLA.

Placing these facilities on the existing car park would eliminate around half of the existing car parking spaces which could be appropriately relocated to the NW corner of the school to provide access throughout the campus, specifically the performing arts buildings.

The building I am proposing would also provide the school with a quiet space for exams, school assemblies and special events, provide access to showers/change rooms for those using the oval and be remote enough from the rest of the school to allow community use during out of school hours. It is also further from neighbours than the currently proposed Building T, solving the issue of noise impact on neighbours.

I would welcome the opportunity to speak with the project manager particularly since there has not been the opportunity for community consultation in person.



(Sports hall/gymnasium on the existing car park off De Villiers Ave)

Kind regards,
Michael Grover,
5v5 Futsal