

To whom it may concern,

It is exciting to see North Sydney Demonstration School getting a substantial and long overdue upgrade. The EIS documentation sets out in quite some detail how the project will unfold and I appreciate it would have been quite difficult to put together given the restrictions placed on the team by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

I would like to draw your attention to “Appendix K_Noise and Vibration Report”, specifically “It would be necessary to allow for external windows and doors to be closed when compliance with the EFSG criteria is required. As it is proposed to air condition these spaces, it should be feasible to ensure that such spaces have an adequate outside air provision” (pp 5) and “In order to achieve the required internal noise levels in the new building it would be necessary to allow for most windows (south in particular) to be closed. This would necessitate an alternative means of ventilation such as air conditioning.” (pp 46)

As we now know the NSW Department of Education is relying primarily on natural ventilation in order to reduce a critical risk vector in the spread of COVID-19.

Given COVID-19 and other airborne viruses are likely to be with us some time I believe it is critical to ensure the air conditioning being specified for this build meets the criteria set out by OzSAGE. Namely eight exchanges of fresh air per hour and HEPA filters.

Current and future students and staff shouldn't be forced to choose between a quiet learning environment and one that has air that is as safe as possible. The specification of correctly sized air conditioning and HEPA filters will allow them to have both.

Regards,
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