

**Submission from:**

Sara Andersson of 6 Dunshea Street Denistone West NSW 2114

Parent of 3 students & member of Marsden High School P&C Association

**Application Name:** Meadowbank Education and Employment Precinct Schools Project – Modification 4 – SSD-9343-Mod-4

To the Director of Social and Infrastructure Assessments,

I Sara Andersson OBJECT strongly to the modifications submitted as part of the Meadowbank Education and Employment Precinct project.

I have grave concerns about the proposal as it will detrimentally impact my children's safety getting to and from school.

The original approval for this school and TAFE complex was based on safety requirements that were deemed necessary for an area where the local road network was inadequate in safety terms for the development.

The traffic, footpath and pedestrian safety issues need to be addressed prior to the new schools opening for term two in 2022. I believe this is necessary as my children will get off the bus outside the 7eleven on Victoria Road and walk down Hermitage Road as it is the most convenient, direct route from our home in Denistone West. I am hugely concerned as to my children's safety crossing at this intersection. The timing of the lights is also too short for safe crossing.

I would also like to see physical barriers on Victoria Road installed to discourage students from cutting across Victoria Road between traffic lights. This is a standard measure put in place for many schools and areas that are dangerous and assist pedestrians who need protecting from the traffic. There has already been a death on that stretch of road and I feel that without appropriate safety measures it will only be a matter of time before one of our children is killed or injured. These barriers are currently in place along Victoria Road in the near vicinity of the current Marsden High School site.

In addition to the safety concerns of students for the transit to school, I also have concerns about a number of key aspects that I believe needed to be included as part of the build. The small oval with natural grass will not sufficiently support the daily use of over 1500 students and will turn into an unusable space within months of the school opening. It has been requested right from the start of this process that an all-weather surface be laid so it can be utilised by the children all year round. This is a standard that has already been implemented in a number of new school builds.

There is also a severe lack of shaded spaces such as larger covered outdoor learning spaces. It would also seem there is a lack of natural shade available. The need for sun protection is well-known, as quoted on the Department's own website.

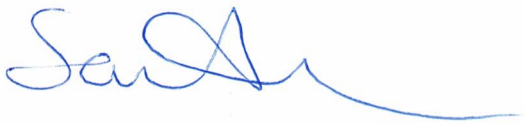
The issue of inadequate teacher parking is very concerning. Many teachers rely on private car transportation in order to manage their before and after teaching lives each day. It is unreasonable and short sighted to expect teachers to use public transport in an urban area

such as Meadowbank. Any existing street parking within kilometres of the site will already be utilised by the industrial workers in the area.

Most concerning is that having a Marsden High School parent representative on the Project Reference Group (PRG) has been a largely false and deceptive process and seems to be a mere "tick box for community engagement" exercise. As a Marsden High School P&C member I have found this process frustrating, disappointing and so disrespectful to the actual representative and the parent community as a whole.

Student safety should be of the utmost priority to each and every department involved in this process. Sadly, it would seem it is currently the least of the priorities. I sincerely hope improvements in general can be made prior to my children having to use the new school site.

I look forward to your response.



Sara Andersson

Concerned parent at Marsden High School

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