

20 December 2021

**Application Name:** Meadowbank Education and Employment Precinct Schools Project – Modification 4

**Application No.:** SSD-9343-Mod-4

**Subject:** Proposal to the Modification 4 and the deletion of the requirement to upgrade the street lighting - **REJECT**

Douglas Partners Pty Ltd (DP) is the tenant of the property owned by Robig Pty Ltd at 96-104 Hermitage Rd, West Ryde, bounded by Hermitage Road on the west and by Rhodes Street to the south. DP have occupied this property for almost 30 years, with our sister company, Ground Test Pty Ltd (GT), who occupy the mechanical workshop and truck storage shed with frontage on Hermitage Road.

We **reject** the deletion of the shared path along the western side of Hermitage road as well as the deletion of the requirement for the lighting upgrade.

DP are a geotechnical and environmental consultancy, with an in-house (soil testing) laboratory and we operate around 20 utility vehicles that are used for our professional and technical staff to visit sites around Sydney, to carry out sampling and testing and supervise GT drilling rigs. GT operates 6 truck-mounted drilling rigs and a few other specialist rigs and support vehicles.

Douglas Partners' forecourt, which runs along the eastern side of Hermitage road and our basement parking entry which runs along Rhodes street is very busy every day with both heavy (truck) vehicles and utes loading and unloading equipment in our workshops, as our office and operations run Mon-Fri, from 7:00 AM till 6:00 PM. Our basement car park also accommodates around 20 personal staff-owned vehicles, which are used for a range of business and personal trips throughout the day.

What would be a very high pedestrian traffic, which will include small children of primary school age will have to negotiate with high incoming and outgoing vehicles in our area of operations. Furthermore, all the businesses along the eastern side of Hermitage road run similar operations of heavy vehicle traffic (i.e Formula Chemicals & Mitronics), and in The Nook Avenue, smash repairs also create very high vehicle traffic.

The eastern side of Hermitage Road will be a very high risk for children to negotiate their daily to and fro to Meadowbank Education Precinct if used as the main pathway and is going to be "*a disaster waiting to happen*". If the pathway on the western side of Hermitage road is extended, the pedestrians will only need to negotiate one traffic driveway of Sydney Water which already has an existing boom lift that slows down all incoming and outgoing vehicles. This will be a safer pathway to walk on and minimizes the risk on the pedestrian including small

children. It seemed like a logical and safe solution for pedestrian traffic associated with the school and note that we had already conducted geotechnical investigations for the proposed walkway/cycleway along the western side of Hermitage Road.

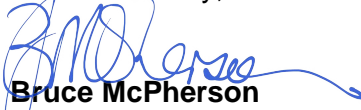
We would also like to highlight the importance of improving the lighting in the school and in the surrounding streets as it is currently in a very dismal state. Lighting the schools and the surrounding street where students will be walking to and fro, particularly when the daylight is shorter will be an important part of keeping them safe in the very busy streets surrounding the Meadowbank Education Precinct.

**We therefore respectfully reject the proposal for Modification 4 and the deletion of the lighting upgrade, in the best interest of everyone involved.**

We appreciate the revitalisation of the area and the opportunities it will offer the community. As a business that shares the community with everyone, we will make every effort from our end to improve the safety of the pedestrians and school children walking past our area, but we consider that this decision is flawed and will likely have disastrous safety consequences for the children attending the new school. .

We hope School Infrastructure can revisit the footpath and lighting plan to truly make the education precinct a safe area for the children and the broader community.

Yours Sincerely,

  
**Bruce McPherson**  
Branch Manager - Sydney

