

12 December 2019

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

Roseville College – New Sport and Wellbeing Centre

Thank you for the opportunity to express my support for the SWELL Centre.

I am a previous user of Roseville College's grounds as a general community member, and now a parent active in the school's community.

I support the development for the following reasons:

1. It represents a substantial upgrade to facilities that will benefit many in the local community.
2. It increases the school's ability to deliver important outcomes for its students.
3. The intent and design of the development ensures appropriate management of impacts on traffic and the built environment.

1. Substantial upgrade to facilities that will benefit many in the local community

The College's existing pool and tennis courts are popular with the local community. Even before my daughter's enrolment at the College, I was one of the many parents whose children learned to swim in the College's pool. My daughter also attends holiday tennis camps at the College courts.

Local parents like me would benefit from an upgraded facility. For example, the new centre will allow more students the chance to learn to swim, with more lessons at one time, and with lessons all year round. (The current pool is too cold and exposed to the weather to be used in colder months.)

Additional opportunities for improved physical and mental wellbeing are valued by the local community. This is reflected in (among other developments) the new Ku-ring-gai Fitness and Aquatic Centre, and the planned upgrade of the Willoughby Leisure Centre.

Consistent with major project status, community facilities like the SWELL Centre also support state and federal government policy priorities. The 2015-2019 Premier's Priorities included a reduction in childhood obesity, and the Federal Department of Health has become more focussed on physical activity every day, including through the "Find your 30" campaign.

2. Increases the school's ability to deliver important outcomes

The College has an emphasis on mental and physical health as part of its overall approach to helping its students achieve their purpose.

I believe this approach to be important to my daughter, as well as everyone at the school. It is no longer sufficient – if it ever has been – for schools to cater only for academic needs, or for academic and competitive sporting interests alone.

In discussions with the school an important driver of my support has been the inclusion in the centre of space to allow teaching and learning about issues of wellbeing.

The Centre is also important to enable already approved growth in student numbers. I support the decision of the school to responsibly grow enrolments while preserving the school's ethos and atmosphere. Responding to demographic changes is an important aspect of the College's response to its local and national context.

Given this existing plan, the SWELL Centre is an important contributor to the additional classroom capacity and amenity required to allow these students to be accommodated within the existing boundaries of the school.

3. Intent and design of the development ensures appropriate management of impacts on traffic and the built environment

My support for the SWELL Centre reflects my view of the Centre's influence on the environment of the College's neighbours.

As a parent of a younger student I am sensitive to the impact of developments. Community support is important for the College's sustainability as an enduring institution. I am also, like local residents, concerned by the impact of changes in the College campus on local traffic and pedestrian flows; I am a frequent user of local roads and train links.

I note the supporting documentation provided by the College includes views of Ku-ring-gai Council and the Government Architects Office on the overall design of the Centre. My interpretation of these comments is that they are supportive of the design, particularly after modifications due to community consultation.

Based on the plans provided, I also note that the Centre's design has, compared with alternatives and indeed with many other existing and proposed similar facilities, gone to substantial lengths to minimise its visual impact on the surrounding environment.

Finally, I understand from the supporting documentation that the Centre's construction will allow a net increase in overall parking, and a substantial increase in off street parking for College students and staff.

The College has been part of the local environment for many years. That said, I acknowledge that substantial developments on the College site are of concern.

I support the development as I believe it strikes a very good balance between the needs of the school and the impact in the local environment.