

**Submission  
No 67  
Item C, Tab 9**

**INQUIRY INTO ENROLMENT CAPACITY IN INNER CITY  
PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

**Name:** NSW Department of Education

**Date received:** 27 September 2016

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**The Hon. Adrian Piccoli MP**  
Minister for Education

Councillor Christine Forster  
City of Sydney  
GPO Box 1591  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

RML15/3020

Dear Councillor Forster *Christine*

I write in response to your letter of 30 June 2015 regarding the redevelopment of Ultimo Public School.

I can confirm that the Department of Education has made a decision not to relocate Ultimo Public School from its current site to the City of Sydney owned Wattle, Jones and Fig Street site.

This decision has been made based on an expert review of the soil and groundwater contamination on the site. The expert review indicated that remediation of the site to ensure student and staff safety would either require ongoing venting of noxious gases from the site, or a higher level of remediation with significantly greater than anticipated costs.

The eventual cost of relocating the school, if the Wattle, Jones and Fig Street site were to be remediated to a level that the Department believes is appropriate to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students and staff, would be more than \$177 million.

Relevant information relating to the contamination can be accessed on the Department's website at the following link <http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au/about-us/news-at-det/announcements/ultimo-remediation>.

The Department is committed to increasing enrolment capacity in the inner city area. In line with this, a strategic asset plan is being developed for the cluster of seven schools in the area, of which Ultimo Public School is one, to ensure that the medium to long term enrolment needs of the area are met.

The issues you have raised have been noted, including the suggestion relating to the Powerhouse Museum site.

The Department greatly values the support of its school communities. You can be assured that educational facilities that meet the enrolment needs of the area will be delivered, in consultation with the school communities.

Thank you for your letter.

Yours sincerely

  
Adrian Piccoli MP  
Minister for Education

7 AUG 2015