



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO. 3

## MEDIA RELEASE

### Report tabled on the redevelopment of Ultimo Public School

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

13 February 2017

General Purpose Standing Committee No. 3 has today tabled its report on the enrolment capacity of inner city public primary schools and the redevelopment of Ultimo Public School.

“The main focus of this Upper House inquiry was to examine the NSW Department of Education’s decision to redevelop Ultimo Public School on its current site, after pulling out of a deal to purchase an alternative 1.2 hectare site located on the corner of Fig and Wattle Streets from the City of Sydney,” the Committee Chair, the Hon Michael Gallacher MLC, said.

Mr Gallacher continued, “It is unfortunate that \$1.12 million in public money was spent on project fees and expenses for the Fig and Wattle site before the decision was made not to proceed with that site, and our report sets out a number of lessons to be learned. We have also made several recommendations to improve decision-making going forward, including formalised coordination between the department and state planning bodies, strengthened whole of government oversight in future land negotiations for schools, and an audit of public land in areas of significant population growth.”

“What this inquiry has also highlighted is that over the past 10 years, Sydney has experienced a population boom which has placed ever increasing demands on inner city public primary school enrolments. In response to this, we have made several more recommendations including fine-tuning the department’s inner city schools cluster model and subjecting the department’s demographic projections to regular third party review,” Mr Gallacher said.

“Looking to the future, the department will now be moving forward with a plan to build a new school on the current site by 2019, with construction of a temporary ‘pop-up’ school to house students during the rebuild due to commence shortly. We urge both the department and the school community to continue to engage with each other to ensure that Ultimo Public School’s rebuild meets the very high standard we all expect,” Mr Gallacher concluded.

For further information about the inquiry, including the final report, submissions and hearing transcript, please visit the committee’s website at: [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc3](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/gpsc3).

-ENDS-

*For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon Michael Gallacher MLC, on 9230 2302.*