

Hon Mark Latham
Chair
Portfolio Committee No. 3 - Education
Parliament House, Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

DOC22/431200

portfoliocommittee3@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Latham

School and site visits – Inquiry into the planning and delivery of school infrastructure in New South Wales

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The visits on 26 April 2022 included two schools and two school sites in South West Sydney. While population and enrolment trends in South West Sydney are similar to those in North West Sydney, there are utilisation imbalances at schools in South West Sydney that the Department is addressing.

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Ms Michele Hedge, Principal at Northbourne Public School, has been leading the school since it opened in 2021. The school is located in Marsden Park on a 3.0 ha site and commenced operations in temporary school facilities while the permanent facilities were finalised. While some demountable teaching spaces continue to be utilised, the playing field has been kept free to ensure sufficient play space is available for the more than 1,200 students enrolled. As discussed during the visit, accurately projecting the number of students per dwelling in the region has been challenging due to dynamics in the area.

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Gledswood Hills Public School

Gledswood Hills Public School is led by Principal Ms Lisa Whitfield and currently has just over 1,000 students enrolled. The new school opened in 2020 and is located on a 2.45 ha site. Planning is underway for a Stage 2 upgrade to deliver an additional 20 flexible learning spaces. The next phase involves reviewing and updating the master plan and developing a concept design. Throughout the planning process for upgrades at existing schools, the Department engages with the Principal, school staff and through the school leadership with the school community, on options to minimise impacts on students, including play space, during the construction. This engagement is underway at Gledswood Public School and will continue throughout the course of the project. The Department will also continue to update the local community via information packs, project updates and works notifications.

Site for new Gregory Hills primary school

The new primary school at Gregory Hills, was funded in the 2021/22 Budget and will provide teaching spaces for approximately 1,000 students from Kindergarten to Year 6. The 2.0 ha site for the new primary school in Gregory Hills, located at Gregory Hills Drive, (surrounded

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A new high school to provide equitable access to selective education facilities in the South West Sydney was funded in the 2021/22 Budget. The Department has identified potential land opportunities for the new selective high school, which are within the Leppington Town Centre and in close proximity to transport links. Property investigations of site options and due diligence is underway and this includes working with a range of other agencies, like Greater Sydney Commission and Landcom, around the Town Centre Master Plan. Camden Council is reviewing precinct planning for the Leppington Town Centre and Landcom is leading master planning of Government owned land in the town centre. Timeframes for planning for the selective high school will be informed by this precinct master planning. A timeline for delivery will be confirmed as planning progresses.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Manning
Chief Executive, School Infrastructure NSW
24 May 2022



Hon Mark Latham
Chair
Portfolio Committee No. 3 - Education
Parliament House, Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

DOC22/431200

portfoliocommittee3@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Dear Mr Latham

School and site visits – Inquiry into the planning and delivery of school infrastructure in New South Wales

On behalf of the school Principals and staff at the Department of Education, we thank the Committee for taking the time to visit schools and sites as part of the Committee's Inquiry.

School Infrastructure NSW and the Department were pleased to host members of the Committee during visits across the two days, and to discuss the infrastructure investments at each school and the planning and delivery of school infrastructure across NSW. This letter provides the Committee with a summary of the school visits and discussions during the visits.

Visits undertaken on 5 April 2022 included three schools in the North West Sydney, as well as Concord High School. North West Sydney has experienced significant urban growth and increased housing density, which is increasing demand for schools in the area.

The visits on 26 April 2022 included two schools and two school sites in South West Sydney. While population and enrolment trends in South West Sydney are similar to those in North West Sydney, there are utilisation imbalances at schools in South West Sydney that the Department is addressing.

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