

Response to Questions on Notice for Councillor Linda Downey, Canterbury Bankstown Council

Question 1 – *The Hon. Scott Farlow: When it comes to Milperra Public School, which is in that vicinity, what is the current state of enrolments there? Do you have any information on that?*

Response 1 – Based on the NSW Department of Education's Master Dataset, Milperra Public School has 304 students currently enrolled from Kindergarten to Year 6 classes. This has grown from 232 students in 2016, according to the My School website.

Source:

- Master Dataset website - [Master dataset: NSW government school locations and student enrolment numbers - Dataset - NSW Education Data Hub](#)
- My School website - [School profile | My School](#)

Question 2 – The Hon. Scott Farlow: Do you understand how much has been given to them of that site? [Reference to the Western Sydney University Milperra Campus site to the adjoining Catholic School]

Response 2 – The Western Sydney University Campus in Milperra has a total area of 19.64 ha, of which 3.68 ha was purchased by the Mount St Joseph Catholic College (including existing buildings from Western Sydney University) – refer to figure below showing the site and the south eastern land that sold.

Figure 1: Site Map



In a letter dated 24 August 2021 from the Hon. Dr Geoff Lee MP, the Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education, confirms that the approval to sell the WSU Milperra campus in April 2020 was subject to the “*sale of part of the land to Mount Saint Joseph High School*”. A copy of the letter is included in **Attachment A**.

The school made the announcement of the purchase at <https://www.msj.catholic.edu.au/news/msj-community-announcement-purchase-of-wsu>

The purchase amount or transfer agreement is a matter for Sydney Catholic Schools, Mount St Joseph College and Western Sydney University.

Question 3 – *The Chair: Can I come back to Councillor Downey? At the bottom of page 4 of the Canterbury-Bankstown submission it states:*

There are currently a number of potential missed opportunities in the Canterbury Bankstown area where surplus lands should be secured for longer term infrastructure...

I presume that includes schools. Can you give us some examples of where you think the surplus land in your LGA should have been accessed for new schools?

Response 3 – There are missed opportunities in the Canterbury Bankstown area where surplus government lands should be secured for longer term infrastructure.

For example, the Sydney Water site known as the Potts Hill Reservoir, where 22.95 ha surplus land was approved for residential development (approximately 450 dwellings) through the former Part 3A Major Projects by the NSW State Government in 2009. There was no school infrastructure provided for the redevelopment of the residential estate.

Other surplus government sites that could be or should have been used for alternative infrastructure, including schools, include:

- Surplus Western Sydney University, Milperra Campus at Nos 2 and 2A Bullecourt Avenue, Milperra – 19.64 ha surplus university site that has been sold to a developer for predominantly residential development and 3.68 ha of the site has been sold to the adjoining Mount St Joseph Catholic School.

In a letter dated 7 October 2020, the Hon. Kevin Conolly MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Education, confirms that “*the site will not assist in meeting additional demands should new schools be required in the future to service this area.*” A copy of the letter is included in **Attachment B**.

- Surplus Chullora TAFE site at No 12 Muir Road, Chullora – 6.66 ha site that is permanently closed.
- Surplus Ausgrid site at No 30 Trevenar Street, Ashbury – 0.67 ha surplus Ausgrid site that was sold to a private developer for residential development. Council is seeking the site to be converted to public recreation land.
- Surplus Sydney Water site at 165-169 Holden Street, Ashbury – 0.25 ha surplus Sydney Water site that seeks to be rezoned for residential development.
- Redevelopment of the Riverwood Housing Estate – 30 ha Land and Housing Corporation owned site to be redevelopment for public and private housing of approximately 3,900 new dwellings as part of the Riverwood Renewal Project (Stage 2). There are no plans for school infrastructure for this renewal project. Source: [Riverwood | NSW Land and Housing Corporation](#)



The Hon. Dr Geoff Lee MP
Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education

ATTACHMENT A

Ref: RML21/3076 (IM21/22641)

Clr Khal Asfour
Mayor
Canterbury-Bankstown Council
PO Box 8
BANKSTOWN NSW 1885

Dear Mayor *Khal*

Thank you for your correspondence of 11 August 2021, regarding the proposed sale and redevelopment of the Western Sydney University (WSU) Milperra campus and I acknowledge the concerns held by the council and the community.

Under the *Western Sydney University Act 1997 (NSW)* and other NSW university acts, I have complete discretion in approving the sale/lease of university land acquired from the State for less than market value. In granting approval for the sale/redevelopment of the WSU Milperra campus, I considered a range of concerns raised by local residents and other stakeholders, including Ms Wendy Lindsay, Member for East Hills. Ms Lindsay has opposed this development and I have met with her to discuss concerns raised on behalf of her constituents.

In-principle approval for the sale/redevelopment of the WSU Milperra campus was first granted by my colleague, the previous Minister for Education, the Hon Rob Stokes MP, in November 2018.

I subsequently provided final consent to the university in April 2020. My approval was subject to a number of conditions, including sale of part of the land to Mount Saint Joseph High School and the continuation of Little Athletics on the campus until 2022. These conditions were determined in consultation with Ms Wendy Lindsay MP, Member for East Hills.

While I am required by law to provide approval for the university to sell or enter into long-term leases land that was acquired from the State for nominal or less than market value, this is not part of the planning process administered by local councils and the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment. Local council is responsible for planning and development matters, including rezoning and I understand the university's proposal is currently before the City of Canterbury-Bankstown Council for its consideration.

Yours sincerely

The Hon. Dr Geoff Lee MP
Minister for Skills and Tertiary Education



Mr Kevin Conolly MP
Parliamentary Secretary for Education

ATTACHMENT B

Clr Khal Asfour
Mayor
Canterbury-Bankstown Council
PO Box 8
BANKSTOWN NSW 1885

RML20/3900

Dear Mayor

I write in response to your letter of 6 August 2020, to the Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC, Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning, regarding the Western Sydney University (WSU) Bankstown Campus. The Minister has asked me to respond on her behalf. I apologise for the delay in responding.

I have sought clarification and advice from the Department of Education on this matter and I am advised of the following.

The Department's response of 10 January 2020 to Councillors Downey and Tuntevski of Canterbury-Bankstown Council advised the Department is confident the existing schools in the Milperra area are capable of meeting student enrolment demands.

The Department notes the potential offering of the facilities at WSU Bankstown Campus and appreciates your continued interest in this site and commitment to supporting school communities.

I can advise that the site will not assist in meeting additional demands should new schools be required in the future to service this area. The Department is considering other solutions that will prove more suitable should the need arise.

The Department's decision is largely due to the location of the campus being on the northern side of the M5 motorway. The site is also surrounded by industrial land, preventing efficient and effective access from where the majority of the future student population is likely to live.

The WSU Bankstown Campus is not owned by the Department of Education and for this reason we are not able to provide further consultation on the matter.

The Department will continue to provide updates on any further developments that may arise within the region.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Conolly M
Parliamentary Secretary for Education
October 2020