

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

Organisation: Ultimo Village Voice

Date received: 15 September 2016

Ultimo Village Voice

Chair - Yimmy Seifert; Vice Chair - Bill d'Anthes; Treasurer – Charlie Crone; Minutes Secretary – Rebecca Spindler; Communications & Publicity Officer - Patricia Johnson; DA Officer – Zena Vaassen

15 September 2016

By email: gpsc3@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Re: Inquiry Into Inner City Schools

Ultimo Village Voice is a community group in Ultimo and we address issues that are of concern to the residents and those who live, work or study in the local area.

Our group does not support the current plan of the Government to demolish our school, rebuilt less than 15 years ago at a cost of more than \$10 million. We do support the purchase of the City's Wattle Street depot to build a new school for 1000 students that would also accommodate additional child care and community facilities.

We refer to (c) of the Terms of Reference, summarized in the table below outlining our comparisons between the Government's current plan to relocate Ultimo Public School and build a high-rise building on the existing site vs the community's preferred option of building a new school on the Wattle Street site.

	Government Current Proposal	Community Preferred Option
Size of site	0.54 hectare	1.2 hectares
Number of students that can be accommodated	750 - 800	1000
Number of years before the school will run out of placements	According to McLachlan Lister the new school will meet the demand projected within the current Ultimo Public School catchment to 2031 (i.e. it will reach its capacity in less than 20 years)	With the increase in number of places the proposed school should meet the demand for up to 50 years
School facilities	Limited to current outdoor space	More outdoor space for students
Community facilities	none	Enough space for childcare and community facilities including sporting facilities
Disruption and its impact to students	Up to 4 years to be relocated to demountables in Wentworth Park while the school is rebuilt	none
Remediation costs	Will be required for temporary demountables in Wentworth Park Remediation of the existing school site will also be required before the rebuild takes place Costs not disclosed by the Government	Will be required Council of City of Sydney estimate \$9.5 million (note: The City discounted the estimated market value of the site from \$100M to \$74M to take into account of the costs of decontamination to EPA

		standards) Independent consultant estimate \$31 million Government estimate \$55 million
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The Government has a responsibility to provide access to quality public education for every child in this State regardless of property prices, and the welfare of our children should be the primary consideration.

Yours sincerely

Yimmy Seifert
Chair
Ultimo Village Voice

Also Former President of Ultimo Public School Parents and Citizens Association