

**INQUIRY INTO PLANNING AND DELIVERY OF SCHOOL
INFRASTRUCTURE IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

Organisation: Ulladulla Area Schools Expansion Action Group

Date Received: 10 February 2022

Partially
Confidential

Kevin Bartolo : Admin of Ulladulla Schools Area Expansion Group –
<https://facebook.com/groups/UlladullaSchoolsAreaExpansionGroup>

Hi,

My name is Kevin Bartolo and a father of a student that is now in _____ coming up from _____. I created the Ulladulla Schools Area Expansion Group after there was no news being relayed to the community regarding the development of the previous Shoalhaven Anglican School (SAS) in Milton that was bought by the NSW State Government and Department of Education (DOE) after the community rallied together and gathered a petition with 10000 signatures from registered voters.

Our three public schools are and have been for a decade over capacity:

Ulladulla High School

Ulladulla Primary School

Milton Primary School

Additionally: St Mary's School Milton which is a feeder school of Ulladulla High School

The following information took me quite some time with a lot of running around by the Department of Education of NSW (DOE). Finally, I got the following response and some awesome facts from them. Now keep in mind in 2017 the school enrolments were:

UHS - 1208

UPS - 735

MPS - 681

Sent to the DoE:

My name is Kevin Bartolo and I am a concerned parent of an _____ student. The concerns of all parents of primary and high school students that all of our public schools are overcrowded. We have increasing numbers of students with social anxiety disorders because, unlike students in large high density metropolitan schools who are exposed to crowds at school and within their everyday activities, our students live in a quiet environment and going into a high density environment at school, their anxiety issues are that bad it affects their ability to learn in the environment they are presented with when attending schools. I know of students that have left to be home schooled or to not finish school at all.

I have asked how the DoE assesses and comes to an answer on whether a school needs expanding. Our schools would be perfect examples. The answer I received was a link to a population projection site for the entire Shoalhaven. Our area has higher growth than the Shoalhaven this can be found on id.com.au See attachment.

Can you tell me where and how you have assessed the area and to come out with the conclusion that our school intake will drop in the coming years and that our growth is in 70-80 yo?

If you look at growth statistics on id.com.au the suburbs with above 10% growth are areas that families are moving into. Worrigea in Nowra district is getting a brand new school and has less growth overall compared to the Ulladulla intake area which is from Sussex Inlet to Kioala.

Can you tell me what are the maximum student numbers for:

1. A high school class per one teacher?
2. Ulladulla High School?
3. Milton Public School?
4. Ulladulla Primary School?

We the community have been trying to get straight answers out of the DoE for well over a year. The DoE must thought purchasing the SAS School was warranted by the 10000 voters that signed the petition presented to them to address the overcrowding issues in our schools.

Thanking you
Kevin Bartolo

Response to my question:

Hi Kevin,

Thank you for your message. We have passed your feedback and concerns onto the School Infrastructure Team who is responsible for school infrastructure projects.

The NSW Department of Education is monitoring growth in the Ulladulla Milton area to ensure appropriate educational infrastructure is provided for the growing community.

The Department's long term projections are informed by census data and dwelling and population forecasts provided by the Department of Planning Environment & Industry (DPIE) in conjunction with local councils.

According to this analysis, there are sufficient teaching spaces in the Ulladulla Milton area and no additional schools are required due to declining school enrolments expected over the next 15 years. By 2036, the largest projected growth in the area is expected in the 70-85 year age bracket with a slight decline in the school age population.

The closure of the Anglican Shoalhaven School at Milton is the likely reason for a recent increase in actual enrolments into Ulladulla and Milton Public Schools and Ulladulla High School.

However, this growth is expected to stabilise and then drop as the population ages, as projected.

The project to relocate the Budawang School to Milton site, is on track and progressing with the contact award expected to be announced in the upcoming months and the Development Application expected to be submitting in the coming weeks.

The Milton site where Budawang will be relocated will be preserved for future educational requirements.

If you have further questions and concerns, please email the School Infrastructure team directly and they will be able to assist: schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au

Best Regards,
Ann - Social Media Team

This was the response from the School Infrastructure Team:

Good afternoon Kevin,

Thank you for contacting School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW). Apologies for the delay in responding.

The Department of Education uses the official Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE) population projections as the basis of our student by area projections.

DPIE's population projections are an agreed set of projections used across all NSW Government agencies and ensures that all NSW Government agencies are planning consistently for the same number of people.

The future population of NSW, including school aged children, is defined by trends in births, deaths and migration (international and domestic). They are used to project how many people are expected to reside in NSW over 5-year intervals that align with the census periods. They

paint a picture of NSW's population, including how many people are likely to be living in NSW, likely age structure and where in NSW they are likely to live.

The release of population projections by DPIE provides the parameters for school planning by defining the future student population. These projections become limits in population because there can only be so many 5-19 year olds living in NSW at any one time (collectively projected to be around 1.5 million by 2036). This limitation ensures that School Infrastructure NSW is not over-planning or under-planning for persons expected to be residing in NSW in the future. Forecast.id are not constrained by these limitations and do not consider the state-wide impact of their projections.

The SINSW student population projections are available on SINSW internal systems for governance control and oversight. This enables the projections to be updated regularly in a quality-controlled environment. Student population projections are not available publicly as they are regularly updated on internal systems, inform investment decisions and their release without further context on supply side assets can misinform the public on school needs.

We will continue to monitor population trends in the Ulladulla/Milton area to ensure appropriate educational infrastructure is provided for the community as population variables can change.

The local SINSW office will continue to work closely with the school leadership to ensure we are able to support the educational learning outcomes of every student. In cases of sustained enrolment increases, we deliver additional permanent facilities or new schools to support this growth. If a need arises for additional capacity in the area, the Department can utilise the residual land at the Milton site.

Please see below answers to your numbered questions:

1. A high school class per one teacher?

Based on the Department of Education's staffing agreement with the Teacher's Federation no (high school) class need exceed 30 students.

2. Ulladulla High School?

The Department allows high schools to cater for an enrolment of up to 2,000 students. The Department has established enrolment caps at all of its schools to help manage out of area enrolments. It is used to identify if a school can enrol out of area students through the enrolment policy. The enrolment cap, based on permanent accommodation, is not a target or limit on the number of students who can be enrolled in a school.

The enrolment cap for Ulladulla High School is 1,220 students.

3. Milton Public School?

The enrolment cap for Milton Public School is 555 students.

4. Ulladulla Primary School?

The enrolment cap for Ulladulla Public School is 509 students.

Please also find our recent Project Update for the Budawang School relocation. The Frequently Asked Questions on pages 2 and 3 shares some key information regarding the Ulladulla/Milton area.

Thank you again for your enquiry.

Community Engagement Team

[Our community phone and email are staffed Monday – Friday, 9am - 5pm]

P 1300 482 651 | E schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au | schoolinfrastructure.nsw.gov.au

GPO Box 33, Sydney, NSW 2001

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/.../default/NSW-education.png>

I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land I work on as the First People of this country.

Since starting the group I have been approached and now being supported by local, state and federal politicians from the Liberal, Labour, Greens and Independent factions, whom all want to see the same outcome.

Prue Car, Justin Fields, Annette Aldrick, Shelley Hancock, Amanda Findley, Moo Dath

Parliament video:

<https://www.facebook.com/JustinFieldIndependent/videos/580641173020496>

Firstly. The SAS site was initially purchased solely to create a new school, possibly that consisting of years 5, 6, 7 and 8 which is the logical solution that will benefit all the schools from their overcrowding. Once purchased, the DOE announced they were adding the Budawang School for special needs children, currently in Ulladulla on a site that is no longer suitable. Once that decision was made, there was no longer any community inclusion for the initial proposal which we found out from the Budawang School, that this was decided by the DOE and themselves was no longer necessary as the initial project was no longer necessary deemed by the DOE. However, even a primary school student can see from the information above provided by the DOE is contradictory, that our schools are well over capacity. The site was bought because the DOE agreed with the community that it was necessary now.

Since then the Budawang School project has finalised its design, which detrimental to the future use of the rest of the site for its original intent. Concerns of this group, myself, School PandC's, and supporting politicians and Transport NSW, is that because the intended school that will start with at least 400 students and expand in coming decades, needs to have the site assessed for onsite parent and bus pickup and drop-off zones, as Transport NSW has already assessed there is no room for on street areas, sufficient for the Budawang School alone. Without this being assessed now, there are two outcomes for the rest of the site that are highly probable.

The first the existing site is already losing buildings to allow for the room needed for the Budawang School to be built. For a sufficient area for 400 students and more, to have safe drop-off and pickup areas, more buildings will be needed to be demolished. This will result in the school needing new multi-storey building to be constructed and a huge budget raised to meet the schools needs. The initial budget of \$10million that was assessed to be needed to get buildings up to standard when the site was purchased will no longer be sufficient. The reality is more likely to be \$100 million or more.

Secondly, Transport NSW could assess that there is insufficient space on the site for the school to be viable after considering the area for the Budawang site, the proposed school on the rest of the site and the required access road for emergency vehicles due to the sites multiple uses now.

Not considering the above is negligent on the State Government and DOE and we are still at a stage that the proposal, can be, designed correctly. The community fought the DOE from trying to sell a site on Garside Road Mollymook. We did achieve this, resulting in the DOE declaring the site again for future education need of the area. The best proposal is for this Garside Rd site to be given to the Budawang School, not only the primary and high schools, but giving Budawang School for future expansion, as the Budawang School will have no room for

expansion after it is built, where it will only possibly have 50 students because of the high needs of the students and teacher/carer ratio. With many families waiting for spaces.

The Ulladulla Schools Area Expansion Group gives full support to the needs of the Budawang Schools and their families, but don't support decisions that are detrimental to the students at Ulladulla High School, Ulladulla Primary School, Milton Public School and St Mary's School Milton. These 2000 plus students need to be considered equally with those of Budawang School and the DOE needs to consider the growth of the area in the coming decades.

Regards,

Kevin Bartolo – Creator and Admin of Ulladulla Schools Area Expansion Group

Narrawallee NSW 2539