

**Submission
No 56**

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

Name: Mr Andrew Ferguson

Date Received: 8 February 2022

NSW PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRY
NSW SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE-FACILITIES, REPUTATION CONCORD HIGH
SCHOOL.
SUBMISSION COUNCILLOR ANDREW FERGUSON

I have lived in the City of Canada Bay Council area for more than 30 years.
I was also elected as a City of Canada Bay Councillor in 2017 and re-elected in late 2021.

My late father Jack Ferguson who was a former Deputy Premier of NSW and Minister for Public Works often made reference to me as a teenager particularly when we visited and or drove through Concord of his involvement in the construction of Concord High School.

At the time he was always proud of this involvement.

He is now deceased but as a child denied the opportunity for an education due to poverty and the need to be a 'breadwinner' he would be ashamed of the state of this school.

My sons Pablo Ferguson-Castro and Camilo Ferguson-Castro attended many years ago Concord High School as students.

As a long term resident and elected Councillor representative I frequently talk with local residents.

Unfortunately Concord High School has a reputation of being overcrowded with neglected and inadequate facilities to ensure the best possible education for local children.

I have spoken to the parents of current students who are upset and anxious about the overcrowding of the school and neglect and worried that this is or will have a deleterious impact on the schooling of their children.

I have also spoken to local parents who have enrolled their children in private schools rather than Concord high School despite not being able to afford this.

I have read the submission of Concord High School P&C and spoken to many local mums and dads who are members of the P&C who echo the concerns of their local P&C.

I see no need to outline herein the details of the overcrowding and neglect of Concord High School as it is well documented in this P&C Submission.

I believe there is a need for an urgent upgrade of Concord High School.

As a local Councillor I am aware of the increased density proposed in the City of Canada Bay Council area and increased demand for children now and in the future for a high school education.

There is accordingly a need for a major expansion of Concord High School or construction of another high school in the local Canada Bay Council area.

If a new high school was the preferred option this could be built at Concord West where there is reasonable public transport (Concord West train station and pending construction of the metro at nearby North Strathfield Railway).

There are many large sites that could be developed at Concord West.

However I do not argue the best location herein as long as the location is accessible and convenient to those who will enrol in it.

The immediate upgrade and expansion of Concord High or construction of a new local High School is justified and urgent.

Councillor Andrew Ferguson
City of Canada Bay Council