

**Submission
No 126**

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

Name: Ms Kate Laney

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Kate Laney

I am a parent at Gledswood Hills Public School and a member of the Group Community Support for Gregory Hills Public School founded by Hanna Braga in late 2020. My family have resided in Gregory Hills since late 2016.

My eldest son had moved from Oran Park Public School after completing Kindergarten in 2019, to the newly opened Gledswood Hills Public school January 2020

The classrooms at Gledswood hills ps were full after the first year.

I attended an orientation day in November 2020 for my youngest son, who was to start Kindergarten in 2021, a group of parents met with the deputy principal.

After finding out the expected enrolment numbers I was shocked, as were the other parents, especially those previously at Oran Park. Why had we uprooted our children from their school and community only to have the same issues of overcrowding.

Where would all these children learn and what green space would remain after they filled up the small school yard with demountables.

We came to the conclusion the only way to get the best education for our children was that Gregory Hills public school had to be built, and quickly otherwise Gledswood Hills would burst at the seams.

Hanna did a lot of work trying to reach out to our local member, to find answers on when the school would be built.

As Hanna referenced the school was originally to be opened in 2023, but then pushed back to 2027 (stage1)

As a parent and member of the community I feel all the state government has let down the communities in South-West Sydney (and North-west Sydney) as they have failed to provide adequate infrastructure in public schools in new developments like Oran Park, Catherine Field, Gledswood Hills, Gregory Hills, Leppington, Emerald Hills, Willowdale, Jordan Springs, Marsden Park etc

They have continued to re-release the same announcement through the media of the school being built in Gregory Hills a number of times since 2018, that this project is still in the planning stages when Camden LGA has been reported on the news as the fastest growing LGA in Australia for the second year in a row and our school is growing not only with kindergarten enrolments but in all other years groups as more people move to the area, throughout the year.

Yet Sarah Mitchell minister for education attended the opening of a new pool at Denistone East Public School with the member for Ryde on 18.6.21 (her MP Facebook page)

We cannot get a promised primary school, and existing schools are getting pools?

17.6.21 Sydney Morning Herald publishes an announcement for Penrith Panthers to get a new stadium by 2025 and the state government is investing \$200-\$300 million to this project

Yet we have been fighting for nearly 2 years for our community to get its promised primary school?

Every child in NSW has the right to attend a public school in their community, and our children have been denied this right as per the NSW state government legislation.

It's now mid 2022 and our school is overcrowded and we are all wondering the same thing, where will the next years intake fit in our school.

Add to that, construction was supposed to commence sometime this year for stage 2 at Gledswood hills PS so our children will lose further play space and have their learning seriously disrupted while construction works commence.

Our children's break times are split for K-2 and 3-6 because there isn't enough play space to accommodate all the children, my kids don't get to see each other on the playground at lunch or recess.

The school bus is overcrowded and a new bus has been given to cope with the extra demand, only for the parents to find out that this bus is a public bus, not a school bus for our school.

This is not to mention the traffic in the morning and afternoons during drop off and pick up, the danger for our kids getting to school and the impact to residents beside the school.

We have seen these issues repeat themselves again and again with Oran Park and Gledswood Hills.

With the proposed opening date of 2025 my eldest will be in year 6 at gledswood hills public and youngest in year 4

We purchased the land in 2015, expecting the school would be built by the time our children needed it, pregnant with an 18 months old.

There are countless families who moved here before us as early as 2012 and their children have left to high school and have to attend Mount Annan high school, despite a new high school opening in 2020 at Oran Park-Gregory hills children won't be able to attend and will have to catch a public bus and change at Narellan to go to another overcrowded high school.

This pattern of underdelivering to public schools needs to be addressed immediately. Gregory Hills public school is needed immediately

We should not have had to spend the last 2 years trying to fight for our promised primary school. This is the time that should have been spent planning for the the high school.

I implore you to start planning on another high school for Gregory hills and Gledswood hills, when, in 3 years times these large cohorts of children start high school, and they require diverse learning spaces covering a board range of subjects, you cannot simply continue to send them to over crowded high schools as young adults