

MM-2 MAYORAL MINUTE - PLANS FOR LOCAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Department Executive Services

Author Initials: AT

REPORT

Our City is experiencing major growth associated with the implementation of the NSW Metropolitan Strategy. We have seen already the need generated for additional places at our local schools as a result of development in Rhodes.

This demand resulted in a partnership between Council and the NSW Department of Education & Communities (DEC) to build a new community precinct in Victoria Avenue with a primary school, children's centre, early childhood health centre, outside school hours care as well as shared use of playing fields and the community school hall.

The NSW DEC have commenced early stage planning to explore options and strategies to increase the capacity at the local Canada Bay schools. To date this planning has focussed around Drummoyne, Russell Lea, Five Dock and Abbotsford Public Schools. This planning has included:

- adjustment to catchment boundaries;
- policies around out of area enrolments;
- review of current enrolment patterns and numbers; and
- consideration of physical works to increase capacity at the schools as well as efficiency in the use of space.

Council Officers have been approached to provide initial advice on traffic matters, planning matters and relevant controls, and community needs and opportunities.

As this planning progresses, the NSW DEC have been advised that it is critical that there is proper and genuine consultation with all stakeholders especially those communities directly impacted by any change. This will be particularly critical in relation to traffic and parking impacts that will directly affect local residents.

It is critical our local residents have the opportunity to actively participate in the planning process.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council write to the NSW Minister for Education and Communities and strongly encourage the Department to undertake proper and genuine community consultation in the progression of planning work for the proposed increase in capacity of our local schools.

THAT Council write to the State Member for Drummoyne and request that he ensures our local residents are fully engaged in the community consultation process.