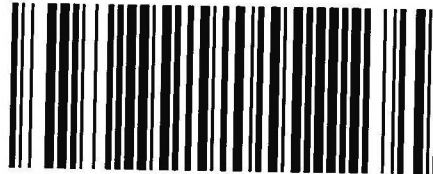




Education



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Department of Planning
Received
13 NOV 2015
Scanning Room

Mr. Brendan O'Brien
Executive Director, Infrastructure, Housing and Employment
NSW Department of Planning & Environment
Housing Land Release
GPO Box 39, Sydney NSW 2001

DOC15/831451

Dear Mr O'Brien,

RE: Macarthur Preliminary Strategy and proposed changes to State Environmental Planning Policy SEPP (Sydney Region Growth Centres) 2006 (Growth Centres SEPP)

Thank you for your letter of 22 September 2015 to the Department of Education relating to the Macarthur Preliminary Strategy and proposed changes to the State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) (Sydney Region Growth Centres) 2006 (Growth Centres SEPP).

The Department notes the reference in the proposal to criteria for the provision of schools, being one primary school per 2,000 to 2,500 new dwellings and one high school per 6,000 to 7,500 new dwellings. There is an additional reference to the consequent need for 6 primary schools and 2 high schools. Please note that these broad measures are not applicable to this situation, and in any case this criteria is out of date and longer in use. School planning is a complex process which is assessed by geographical area through cluster and regional plans throughout NSW.

In response to your invitation to comment on the Preliminary Strategy, the Department has assessed the capacity of schools in the Greater Macarthur Area to service the additional growth anticipated from the proposal. Based on analysis of the projected student growth resulting from existing dwellings and the natural growth of suburbs in this area, it is anticipated there will not be sufficient capacity in educational infrastructure to service the additional student population from the subject proposal.

Our challenge is to plan for the expected increase in student population arising from this development, in the most efficient and effective way. Should educational infrastructure be required, the Department would be responsive to enter into negotiations with NSW Planning and Environment and developers for the granting of a VPA.

On a state-wide basis the Department is supportive of the shift in planning decisions and policies which encourage:-

- the infrastructure costs of additional teaching spaces and associated facilities to be funded by developer contributions;
- optimising the size, amenity and function of existing schools so that they afford greater choice and provide contemporary teaching spaces for students;



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- facilitating out of hours shared use of education facilities such as ovals and halls;
- the removal of planning policy barriers to school development;
- land dedications and appropriate zoning in areas where a new school is required; and
- streamlined planning approvals for new education infrastructure

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Planning Proposal. We request that NSW Planning & Environment continues to inform the Department of any significant changes to the plans, new land rezoning's and dwelling numbers. Significant changes and/or new developments may warrant further analysis and investigations for essential education infrastructure.

Please contact Lydia Awad, Statutory Planner, on (02) 9561 1130 or email lydia.awad@det.nsw.edu.au should you require further information.

Yours sincerely

Joe Lantz
Acting Director Planning and Demography
Asset Management
6 November 2015