

Sydney Regional Environmental Plan 26

○ Amendments for temporary school

September 2016

Why is this policy being amended?

- The NSW Department of Education has requested changes to a State planning policy to make it possible to develop a temporary school at Wentworth Park while the nearby Ultimo Public School undergoes redevelopment. Once complete, the new Ultimo public school will be able to accommodate an additional 500 students, bring it to a total of up to 800 students.
- Proposed changes to the Sydney Regional Environmental Plan 26 – City West would allow a temporary school to be considered under Part 5 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.
- Under the Part 5 pathway, the Department of Education will need to consider environmental impacts of the proposed temporary school before going ahead with the project.

What is the Sydney Regional Environmental Plan 26- City West?

- Sydney Regional Environmental Plan 26 – City West is a State planning policy which aims to:
 - establish planning principles for City West as a whole,
 - establish planning principles and development controls for development in each Precinct within City West, and
 - promote the orderly and economic use and development of land within City West.
- Sydney Regional Environmental Plan 26 sets out the planning controls for Wentworth Park.

Why was the Wentworth Park site chosen?

- The Department of Education has considered a variety of locations. Wentworth Park was found to be the preferred site because it:
 - is close to the existing school to allow for current transport/school access methods to be maintained
 - has access to Wentworth Park
 - allows temporary buildings to be designed to be fit for purpose
 - allows for outdoor learning

What is the boundary of the temporary school?

- The draft map that accompanies the policy amendment identifies the proposed location and boundary of the temporary school.
- The temporary school would represent less than 5% of the overall Wentworth Park/Sporting Complex area of about 14ha.
- The public would still be able to use most of Wentworth Park and sporting uses would not be affected.

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What about contamination and other environmental issues at Wentworth Park?

- Under the proposed planning pathway, the Department of Education will need to undertake rigorous assessment of the potential environmental impact for the proposed temporary school before going ahead with the project.
- A preliminary environmental assessment of the proposed school site has been undertaken. The investigation found elevated concentration of lead and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the soil. The main exposure pathway for lead and PAHs is the ingestion of soil.
- The site can be made suitable by eliminating the potential for ingestion. This can be achieved by completely covering the footprint of the school to prevent any contact with the soil. The intent is for the play areas and access ways within the boundary of the school to be covered with decking. This is a very common solution to this issue that has been implemented on many sites in Sydney.

How many trees will be affected by the proposal?

- The temporary school has been located and designed to minimise impacts on trees. Three trees, which are currently in poor condition, are likely to be removed. Two recently-planted trees are likely to be relocated within the Park.
- An offset strategy will be prepared by the Department of Education, in consultation with the City of Sydney Council and the Wentworth Park Trust, to replace trees removed during the temporary use of the site.

How will the proposal affect student pick-up/drop-off arrangements?

- Student drop-off and pick-up arrangements are not expected to change. Students will be able to access the temporary school via the Wattle Street pedestrian bridge.

Who has been consulted on the proposal?

- The NSW Department of Education has undertaken consultation with the Ultimo Public School community, including the Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) and Project Reference Group, community and interest groups, Wentworth Park Trust, City of Sydney Council, UrbanGrowth NSW, Department of Lands, Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council and Roads and Maritime Services.

Is the park safe and secure for use by students?

- The temporary school's location and design will address safety and security issues consistent with the Department of Education's *Educational Facilities Standards and Guidelines*, as well as the principles of *Crime Prevention through Environmental Design*, and NSW Police *Safer by Design* guidelines.

What is the status of the new Ultimo public school?

- Earlier this year the Department of Planning and Environment issued the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements for the redevelopment of the Ultimo Public School. The proposal qualified as State Significant Development.

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- The development application for this proposal, including an Environmental Impact Statement, is anticipated to be lodged with the Department of Planning and Environment later this year. This process will include a period of public consultation.

How do I comment on the proposed changes?

- You can view and comment on the changes until Tuesday, 4 October 2016 at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/proposals
- All submissions will be made public in line with the Department's objective to promote an open and transparent planning system. If you do not want your name published, please state this clearly at the top of your submission. Before making a submission, please read our privacy policy at: www.planning.nsw.gov.au/privacy

Where can I find out more?

- Call the Department of Planning and Environment's Information Centre on 1300 305 695.
- If English isn't your first language, please call 131 450. Ask for an interpreter in your language and then request to be connected to our Information Centre on 1300 305 695.
- Email: information@planning.nsw.gov.au