

# Sydney Regional Environmental Plan (SREP) 26 - City West Amendments for temporary school at Wentworth Park

I, Jean-Pierre ALEXANDRE, resident of Ultimo, wish to record my opposition to the proposed "amendments for temporary school at Wentworth Park" for the following reasons:

(a) "Permit a temporary school **without consent by or on behalf of a public authority** on part of Wentworth Park...As the current zoning and objectives for Wentworth Park prohibit the proposed educational use, an amendment to the SREP 26 is needed..."

*This requires changing an existing regulation and might be challenged. How can it happen without wider community consultation?*

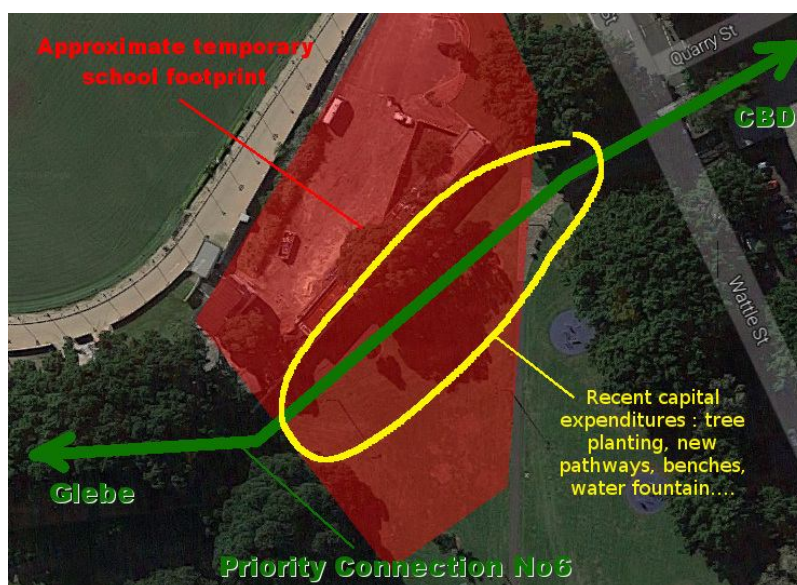
(b) "The Department of Education would need to carefully consider environmental impacts"

*It will remove allegedly sickly trees and move others*

(c) The proposed rezoning affects the City of Sydney's **Priority Connection No6** (Ultimo, Glebe, Forest Lodge) – refer to Draft Walking Strategy and Action Plan (Dec 14) - Associated works (new brick-paved walk/cycle way, new trees, benches and water fountain, etc...) were carried out at taxpayers' expense just a few months ago.

*How does the Planning and Environment Department **justify the waste** of this investment so soon after it was made?*

Draft Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2030



(d) "The Department of Education is committed to "making good works on the Park once the temporary school has been removed"

*Will the wider community be properly consulted about this?*

(e) "Criteria considered in selecting this location included. Impact on the stakeholders in the temporary location "

***The stakeholders include members of the wider local community. They were not consulted about their views on possible impact.***

(f) "A project Reference Group was set up to obtain stakeholder input on the options.....The Group was made up of representatives from the school, **the community** and the NSW Departmentt of Education..."

*The wider community was not consulted at all.*

(g) The area nominated for the temporary school is partially within the existing **public space**.

*As greyhound racing will cease in mid-2017, why not locate the school entirely within the Wentworth Park Sporting Complex area, to avoid stealing precious public space?*

(h) An initial site investigation found high levels of soil pollutants (lead, PAHs) which are extremely toxic if ingested in the proposed school area. It's proposed to protect the students from contact with the soil with decking.

*But since the children will play freely in the open Park, they will be at high risk anyway!*



(i) There is an Upper House Inquiry in progress "into inner city public primary school enrolment capacity **and redevelopment of Ultimo Public School.**"  
Hearings will take place in November and the Committee will report on their findings a few weeks later.

*Why is the NSW Government not waiting for the Inquiry's findings before applying for Wentworth Park rezoning?*

(j) The NSW Government promised before the 2015 elections to build a new primary school on the City of Sydney's disused Wattle St depot. This solution:

- allowed construction of a 1,000 student school plus childcare and community facilities: The new school on Quarry Street will have a maximum capacity of only 800 students
- avoided accommodating children in a temporary "pop up" school, and thus the need to rezone Wentworth Park and deprive the local communities of a substantial part of their park.
- was ready for construction and preliminary design was completed 2 years ago, so the school could have opened in early 2018. The Quarry St school will not be ready until 2020 or 2021.

*Why did the NSW Government renege on its promise and is now instead applying for rezoning of Wentworth Park?*

**Jean-Pierre ALEXANDRE**

**01 Oct 2016**