

9 November 2016

To Whom It May Concern,

The Newington Public School Parents and Citizens Association, is making this submission on behalf of the local school community to give feedback on the Sydney Olympic Park's revised 2030 plans.

In particular, we are concerned that the educational infrastructure as part of Sydney Olympic Park's revised 2030 plan are only 'possibilities' and has no commitment from the Department of Education.

We are in need of primary and in particular secondary schools to cater for the current and proposed student population of this community. These schools need to be approved and budgeted now in line with approved and proposed residential development, to avoid the current predicament of placing pressure on existing local schools.

To support this submission we reached out to the community and received over **110 signatures** to our online Change.org and wall petition. The names and comments have been attached as supporting documents to this submission.

Key points in favour of approving and building a high school now;

- The plans indicate an additional 5000 students will reside in the SOP precinct. The Community Facilities Strategy document (page 22) in the plan highlight research that in Sydney there are changing apartment demographics which include families with older children (larger apartments and accepted norm for residents coming from overseas). With all the development in recent years, a high school in the local area could be full with existing students from Rhodes, Wentworth Point and Newington, let alone the proposed student population for SOP.
- The Community Facilities Strategy document (page 33) in the plans talk of nearby Homebush Boys and Auburn Girls High Schools. The high school catchment for 2127 is actually Concord High School. The school buses and local buses are often full in the mornings and can take over 30 minutes in traffic to reach. So whilst there are closer schools, out of area enrolments are at the principal's discretion and with these schools also at capacity it is unlikely to be able to attend.
- In relation to timing of infrastructure, the Community Facilities Strategy document (page 63), indicate that the Department of Education's policy is not to approve new schools until existing schools are at capacity. This lacks foresight and logic. By this stage existing schools will be haemorrhaging until the new school is built. This can be evidenced with Newington Public School which currently has 890 enrolments whilst waiting for Wentworth Point Public school to be built. This school was approved back in 2012 and after delays is not due to be opened until 2018. This is why the community is sceptical of plans. We would like to see approval, budget and a timeline now before additional residential towers are built.

Government schools in our community are an existing gap that needs to be addressed accordingly. Department of Education strategies to manage student increases (such as adding demountables or changing catchment areas) are not long term solutions, to meet the demands of this community and the proposed residential developments in these plans.

Whilst the plans acknowledge the need and make provisions for a high school, without the approval from the Department of Education, they are meaningless. A strategic coordinated approach to education between the Department of Planning and the Department of Education is essential to address the critical shortage in an area that has been earmarked for growth by the government. We encourage you to gain commitment from the Department of Education now, so that the educational infrastructure can in fact support the plans.

The government needs to show they are serious about the area being diversified into an active vibrant urban precinct and invest in schools that will provide a first class education for every family that lives in the area.

Regards,  
P & C Association  
Newington Public School