

NSW Department of Planning and Environment

Submission on Arncliffe and Banksia Priority Precinct Rezoning Proposal and Development Control Plan

We strongly urge the NSW Department of Planning and Environment to reconsider a number of factors in the draft Arncliffe and Banksia Priority Precinct Rezoning Proposal and Development Control Plan.

Impact on the School:

Arncliffe Public School has a long and proud history in the community having been opened and in operation for more than 150 years. As the community has grown and changed, so too has the school to meet these ever changing demands.

The school is currently nearing capacity with our enrolment at 420 students. To accommodate the proposed growth as projected in the Arncliffe and Banksia Rezoning Proposal, a comprehensive analysis of future impact would need to be undertaken. To date the school has not been consulted about the proposed development, nor have we been given a “futures plan” on how the increase in enrolment would be catered for. The school site is fixed, meaning there is no room for expansion. Currently the site is shared with the Department of Education’s Regional Office, an arrangement that also impacts on the school’s enrolment capacity.

We have an open playground which provides the students with the opportunity to play on grass fields, basketball courts, under trees, in the sandpit and on fixed equipment. Our playground is an enormous asset to our school and it would be grossly inappropriate to encroach into this by placing demountable classrooms into the school to cater for increased enrolment. Having an expansive playground is also a very necessary asset for the school, given the expected number of students living in apartments.

To maintain our grass fields we cannot have high rise close to the school as it inhibits sufficient sunlight for the grass to grow due to shadowing. The school in the past had planning restrictions placed on the existing neighbouring high rise for this reason.

The school community appreciates that there is growing demand for housing and redevelopment, but would like to emphasise the urgency for open and transparent consultation so that future proposals are not detrimental to the school environment as it exists today.

We do not want to see our facilities and amenities compromised due to poor planning consultation.

Victoria Trucchi

Secretary, School Council, Arncliffe Public School

(on behalf of the School Council)