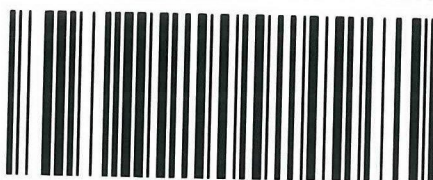




Education



PCU069830

Director, Industry and Infrastructure Policy  
Department of Planning and Environment  
PO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

DOC17/181664

Dear Felicity,

**Draft State Environmental Planning Policy (Education Establishments and Child Care Facilities) 2017**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment as part of the current public consultation period for the draft *State Environmental Planning Policy (Education Establishments and Child Care Facilities) 2017* (the ESEPP).

As you are aware, the NSW Government has a statutory requirement to deliver public education infrastructure to the NSW community under the *Education Act 1990*. This signifies that public education infrastructure is essential State infrastructure. The proposed E-SEPP will ensure that the planning for essential State education infrastructure is supported and in doing so, will assist the delivery of a significant school construction program to increase capacity for our rapidly growing school-age population over the next decade.

The increased use of the complying development and state significant development is a positive move towards supporting the delivery of much needed school improvements, significantly redeveloped schools and new schools.

I understand that concerns may be raised about the ESEPP. It is our strong view that the ESEPP and more broadly, the NSW Planning system, contains adequate provision for protection of the environment and mitigation of any adverse impacts on the environment, neighbours and local communities. The Department will also be engaging with communities before development application stages so our communities are kept informed and their views are sought well before the construction of new facilities occur.

We further note that our strategy to delivering expanded school capacity and improved learning environments will bring more valuable assets into our communities such as 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching and learning facilities, libraries, halls, playing courts and sports ovals, many of which can be developed and managed as joint use facilities. Supporting the delivery of 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching facilities and joint use of facilities provides significant benefits for schools and the community; reinforces pride in the local school; improves community relations and promotes social cohesion.

The Department of Education strongly supports the ESEPP.

Yours sincerely

John Neish  
Group Director, Planning and Strategy

74 March 2017

