



JOHN COLET SCHOOL

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3 April 2017

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

Dear Sir/Madam

Draft State Environmental Planning Policy (Educational Establishments and Child Care Facilities)2017 (draft SEPP) - submission

This school is generally in support of the draft SEPP, although is concerned with the proposal that only Council certifiers can issue CDCs as this will inevitably lengthen the time it takes to get consent. It is important that there be a level playing field for public and private schools in master planning and development if private schools are to be able to help address the significant increase in new places required to meet future needs.

Our school has had a number of challenges in the past, both in terms of the length of time it has taken to obtain development consent via the local council processes, as well as in terms of the inordinate costs involved in obtaining consent. The majority of funding for new classrooms or upgrades of school facilities comes directly from the school community, with very little government funding in the past, the exception being the BER and the NBJP process for obtaining consent. Any improvements to the pathway options in obtaining development consent that minimize the time taken and the money spent on reports, rather than building new classrooms will be an improvement and help support continued growth. Council aims to take 6 weeks to determine a DA, but our school experience is that it can take a minimum of 6 months and up to a year.

The placing of arbitrary student number or staff number caps on private schools by councils removes the flexibility of schools to manage increases in demand for places when they occur.

The proposal that only Council certifiers and not private certifiers can issue CDCs will not improve this pathway as past experience is that Council certifiers take much longer than private certifiers due to the volume of work in Council departments.

Yours faithfully

Christine Condos

Bursar

K-6 co-educational, multi-faith school