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To Whom It May Concern

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Seventh-day Adventist Schools (North NSW) Ltd and the company's 10 schools and 2 Early Learning Centres, we wish to extend a strong comment of support for the Draft SEPP (Educational Establishments and Child Care Facilities). The demand for not only new schools and early learning centres / child care facilities, but also the refurbishment and expansion of current facilities, makes this revised SEPP welcomed.

Whilst the physical design and appearance of an educational facility is not the sole precursor to achieving desired educational learning outcomes for students, when delivered in a manner that aligns pedagogy with the learning environment, the physical plant can become a true cornerstone for student learning. All NSW students deserve the opportunity to be housed in facilities that provide for optimum learning environments within their local context and regional needs.

We believe this Draft SEPP goes a long way to ensuring the non-government educational sector can support the students of NSW in a timely and equitable fashion when compared to the processes of the past. The proposed streamlining of the developmental application processes and procedures is significant. It should make no difference whether a government or non-government entity seeks to enhance and improve the learning experience for students through capital works: as all NSW students matter. This Draft SEPP pursues this.

This Draft SEPP goes a long way to aiding in the enhancement of education in NSW. With predicted ongoing, but very regionalised enrolment growth in NSW, all educational sectors need to be able to work to maximize regional assets and actively reduce unnecessary replication. The adjustment of the attitudes and expectations regarding school size capping is a much needed step.

With the adjustment of school capping terms, and the subsequent construction of new facilities where required, and the refurbishment or expansion of existing facilities as appropriate, the growing demand can be more readily met. The very nature of this demand, in growth corridors and regional hot spots, needs a flexible attitude to existing school sizes so that regional answers to regional demand needs can be met by existing providers wherever possible: both government and non-government providers.

In closing, the Board of Directors, Seventh-day Adventist Schools (North NSW) Ltd again record their support for this Draft SEPP (Educational Establishments and Child Care Facilities) and look forward to seeing it being implemented to the betterment of all NSW students.

Yours sincerely



Dean Bennetts
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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