



Contact: Ms Sarah Paddington

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Your ref:

Ms Kristy Chan
Principal Policy Officer Industry and
Infrastructure Policy
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
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Dear Ms Chan,

The SEPP Educational Establishments and Child Care Facilities has been drafted by the Department of Planning and Environment in response to substantial population growth in NSW and increased pressure on child care facilities and the education system. The Draft SEPP, which will apply throughout NSW,

- simplifies and standardises approvals process for child care facilities, schools, TAFE's and universities including expanding the range of development that can be undertaken as "exempt and complying" development
- sets out rules for these developments including where they can be built, what development standards apply and consultation requirements
- establishes state wide assessment requirements and design considerations to improve the quality of facilities and to minimise impacts on surrounding areas.

There is a high number (n=1062) of items currently listed in the heritage schedules of local environmental plans with "school" in the name field and 758 items listed in the heritage schedules of local environmental plans classified as "education" related properties. There are also 19 items currently listed on the State Heritage Register classified as "education" properties. The Department of Education and Training currently has heritage listed buildings and items on 529 sites across NSW (S170 Register 2009).

The Heritage Council has significant concerns about the Draft SEPP and the potential for development under the Draft SEPP to adversely impact the heritage significance of the above noted heritage listed items. The ways in which these may be affected include:

- there is the potential for the Draft SEPP to have a significant impact on items listed on the State Heritage Register (SHR) or subject to an IHO.
- there are a significant number of school and education related properties listed in local environmental plans and the SHR.
- there is the potential for development under the Draft SEPP to adversely impact items *not* currently listed in local environmental plans and the State Heritage Register particularly archaeology and Aboriginal objects and places.
- there is the potential for adverse impacts on the heritage significance of listed local heritage items and heritage conservation areas.
- there is the potential for adverse impacts on archaeology and Aboriginal objects or places.

The Draft SEPP will enable minor works such as landscaping, awnings and fences and minor internal and external alterations at child care facilities, schools, TAFE's and universities to be carried out as "exempt" development. The Draft SEPP advises (Clause 15 General Requirements for Exempt Development 3(e)) that proposed development can only be "exempt" if –

- it is likely to affect a State or local heritage item or a heritage conservation area if the proposed development does not involve more than "minimal" impact on the heritage significance of the item or area and
- is in accordance with any applicable heritage conservation management plan.

The Heritage Council would encourage the department to prepare guidelines that define the types of development that may have a minimal impact.

The Heritage Council of NSW welcomes an opportunity for the department to come and discuss these concerns at our monthly meeting.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Davies', followed by a comma.

Mr Stephen Davies
Chair
Heritage Council of NSW