



Anoulack Chanthivong MP

MEMBER FOR MACQUARIE FIELDS

Submission on the new primary school in Edmondson Park - SSDA-10224

15 July 2021

The development of a primary school in Edmondson Park is long overdue. Parents and carers have been waiting years for action, so it is imperative that the Liberal Government doesn't fail local residents any further by building a school that does not meet the community's growing needs.

I have long campaigned for a new school in Edmondson Park as I am passionate that growth in suburbs should be matched by adequate infrastructure.

Whilst I am pleased a school will finally be built, I do raise some concerns with the view to ensuring the best school possible for my constituents.

I have concerns about the proposed size of the school, sufficient support units, the catchment zone, pedestrian safety, proposed staggered bell times and staff parking, based on details in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and accompanying reports.

Concerns regarding capacity

I note that the school will cater for 1012 students. I question whether the proposed school will have enough capacity to service the growing suburb of Edmondson Park.

Nearby Bardia Public School is a shocking example of the Liberal Government's failure to provide adequate infrastructure for a growing suburb.

In fact, the Liberal Government's woeful planning decisions were recently highlighted to me by Campbelltown City Council in its letter dated 15 June 2021: *"We understand that the school at Bardia was initially intended to house around half of the current student population, however following the Department of Education and Training (DET) decision to not proceed with a proposed school in the Liverpool area, the catchment for that school was merged with Bardia Public School and as such is catering for far more students that (sic) originally intended."*

The redeveloped Bardia Public School is already at capacity, with demountable buildings soon to take up residence on the school's sporting grounds just to accommodate student population.

It would be completely unacceptable if the primary school in Edmondson Park were to suffer the same fate as Bardia Public School due to poor planning.

Of particular concern is the following statement on page 21 of the EIS: "By the time Stage 1 is in delivery, it would provide SINSW with sufficient time and date to monitor the rate of developments occurring in Bardia and determine whether there is a need to bring forward Stage 2. This mitigates

the risk that Stage 2 would not be funded and eventuate in the next budget and ensures the maximum benefits are derived from the delivery of the remaining PLS [permanent learning spaces]”.

Has the Department of Education completely ignored developments occurring in Edmondson Park? The proposed school is to cater for the demand in Edmondson Park, not Bardia.

This clear error in the EIS gives rise to serious doubts the Liberal Government has failed to consider the urgent needs of the Edmondson Park community during its planning process.

I would also like an iron-clad commitment from the Liberal Government to fund and deliver Stage 2 of Edmondson Park School within the proposed 2028 timeframe.

Concerns regarding sufficient support units

I note there are four special support unit teaching spaces in the proposed school.

The development of the primary school in Edmondson Park is a prime opportunity to provide even more special support units to cater for the growing need in south-west Sydney.

I am constantly contacted by desperate parents trying to find a support place for their child, only to be constantly knocked back due to lack of available spaces.

If the Liberal Government was serious about providing the best education for all students, it would increase the number of special support units at the Edmondson Park school.

Concerns regarding the school catchment zone

The maps of the proposed school catchment zone included in the EIS and accompanying Transport and Traffic Assessment, appear to leave out the Edmondson Park Town Centre south of the railway station and north of Campbelltown Road.

If that is indeed the case, the proposed catchment zone is completely inadequate. Where are children living in the town centre supposed to attend school? They will be within walking distance to Edmondson Park School and Bardia Public School but will not fall within either catchment.

The situation described above needs to be urgently addressed.

Concerns regarding pedestrian safety

My recent *School Safety Report* found that safety concerns are a real impediment to parents and carers allowing their children to walk or ride to school. It is imperative safety concerns are considered and addressed to encourage the school community to walk or ride as much as possible.

I note that the Transport and Traffic Assessment accompanying the EIS recommends investigations by Liverpool City Council to upgrade pedestrian and cycleway infrastructure surrounding the proposed school.

The Liberal Government should not flick the onus to provide adequate infrastructure to Council. The Liberal Government should fund and deliver any pathway or cycleway upgrade required to ensure the safety of students.

The Transport and Traffic Assessment also identifies eight pedestrian crossings that would “ideally” be installed as raised zebra crossings (page 34). **The Liberal Government must ensure these pedestrian crossings are installed before operation of the school begins. The safety of school students is crucial.**

Concerns regarding staggered bell times

The Transport and Traffic Assessment accompanying the EIS states: “The school will have staggered bell times to flatten the curve of the pick-up and drop-off arrival profile” (page 1).

Staggered bell times is not mentioned in the EIS. **Will staggered bell times be implemented at the Edmondson Park School? What consultation was done with the local community to determine whether staggered bell times is feasible for parents are carers?**

Concerns regarding staff parking

The EIS states 35 parking spaces will be provided to staff yet there will be 59 staff members employed at the school. Inevitably, the 24 staff members who miss out on a spot will be forced to park on nearby streets. This situation will cause congestion in the local area. The provision for parking spots for only about 60% of staff is inadequate and should be revised.

Closing remarks

As previously stated, I have campaigned with my constituents for a school in Edmondson Park for years. I have heard first-hand the frustration and angst from parents and carers who have been desperate for the long-promised school.

My submission has been drafted with the best interests of my community in mind as I continue to fight for our fair share.

Yours sincerely,



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