

14 September 2020

Mr Jim Betts  
Secretary  
NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
Locked Bag 5022  
Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear Mr Betts,

**RE: SUBMISSION TO DRAFT PYRMONT PENINSULA PLACE STRATEGY**

School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW), as part of the Department of Education (DoE), welcomes the opportunity to provide comments on the draft Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy (draft Strategy). SINSW works in conjunction with DoE to ensure every school-aged child in NSW has access to high quality education facilities at their local public school.

SINSW has reviewed the draft Strategy and supporting technical documents and is generally supportive of its overall direction and actions. However, this is subject to ongoing collaboration between SINSW, the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) and City of Sydney Council (Council) to ensure infrastructure provision within the Pyrmont Peninsula aligns with growth through to 2041.

**Population Growth:**

SINSW notes that the draft Strategy predicts that the total population of the Pyrmont Peninsula could increase by up to 8,500 people by 2041. This population projection was determined by calculating projected population increases for each Pyrmont Peninsula sub-precinct, as follows:

- Darling Island – 600 more people
- Tumbalong Park – 2,055 more people
- Ultimo – 2,350 more people
- Wentworth Park – 1,115 more people
- Blackwattle Bay – 2,055 more people
- Pirrama – 190 more people
- Pyrmont Village – 135 more people

SINSW notes and agrees with the following statement on page 113 of the Pyrmont Peninsula Social Infrastructure Assessment Report (July 2020): *“The Pyrmont Peninsula is well serviced with access to.....primary and secondary school and additional places are not required”*. This is due to the following:

- The recent redevelopment of Ultimo Public School accounts for projected residential growth and future demand for primary school students in the area.

Ultimo Public School is approximately 500m from the southern end of the Pyrmont Peninsula and 1.3km from the northern end. Harris Street provides a walkable spine through the Pyrmont Peninsula to assist with safe access to Ultimo Public School.

- Inner Sydney High School opened (for Year 7) in 2020. The intake area for Inner Sydney High School was intended to relieve enrolment pressure at Rose Bay Secondary College, Sydney Secondary College (SSC) Balmain Campus and SSC Blackwattle Bay Campus by reducing their intake area (particularly Sydney CBD and Woolloomooloo). This will allow sufficient capacity for future secondary school students living in the Pyrmont Peninsula area to attend these campuses. Opportunities also exist to further expand the SSC Blackwattle Bay Campus and the SSC Balmain Campus for secondary school students in the area, should this be required in the future. Currently, SSC Balmain caters for years 7 to 10 and SSC Blackwattle Bay caters for years 11 and 12 and includes a selective stream. Access from the Pyrmont Peninsula to SSC Blackwattle Bay campus is approximately 800m and to SSC Balmain Campus approximately 3km.
- Note: DoE provides the following standard response for enquiries regarding intake for Inner Sydney High School:

*“School intake areas are designated to ensure that all compulsory school-age children in the state will be eligible to attend a government school. The intake area for the Inner Sydney High School was determined following consultation with primary and high school principals and demographers who analysed projected enrolments in the Inner Sydney area.*

*In line with all public schools, Inner Sydney High School, follows the NSW Department of Education’s Enrolment of Students in NSW Government Schools policy which states that parents may apply to enrol their child in the school of their choice, however, acceptance is subject to the child being eligible to attend the school and the school being able to accommodate the child.”*

SINSW is committed to working with DPIE and Council to ensure that public schools are supporting community needs and continue to be appropriately resourced to respond to changes to its student population.

### **Sydney Metro:**

SINSW is supportive of the draft Strategy action that recommends the delivery of a Sydney Metro station in the Pyrmont Peninsula. SINSW acknowledges that at completion, the delivery of a Sydney Metro station in the Pyrmont Peninsula would likely provide a range of on-going positive outcomes for surrounding schools and communities, including:

- Reduced localised traffic.
- Improved school access.

- Support and improvements to sustainable travel.
- Improved safety for students travelling to and from school.

Notwithstanding this, SINSW requests that any potential future Sydney Metro station in the Pyrmont Peninsula is designed and located to mitigate against potential adverse impacts (including traffic, access, noise and vibration and air quality impacts) on surrounding schools and communities.

#### **Active/Sustainable Travel:**

SINSW notes that increased growth in the Pyrmont Peninsula will place further pressure on the surrounding road network. As a result, it is essential that other modes of travel are catered for. SINSW is therefore supportive of the various actions contained to the draft Strategy that seek to deliver opportunities for greater public transport, walking and cycling opportunities.

Notwithstanding this, SINSW recommends that the draft Strategy also includes the following additional actions to promote greater active and sustainable travel, particularly around school sites within the Pyrmont Peninsula:

- Provide new and upgraded footpaths, including pedestrian crossings, to promote a more pedestrian friendly environment.
- Provide new and upgraded cycling lanes within the Pyrmont Peninsula.
- Implement lower vehicle speeds around sensitive land-uses, including schools.
- Implement local area traffic calming at strategic locations near sensitive land uses.
- Provide improved bus stop access and higher bus priority on roads to decrease bus journey times. This includes for school busses.
- Include an Action Plan for the implementation of the above, coupled with appropriate programs, delivery agency and identification of funding to facilitate mode shifts to the above to reduce pressure of the road network in the Pyrmont Peninsula.

SINSW is highly committed to supporting initiatives that encourage sustainable travel to and from schools and active lifestyles.

#### **Joint and Shared-Use Opportunities:**

SINSW is supportive of the draft Strategy action to provide greater access to open space and recreational facilities in the Pyrmont Peninsula. To assist with achieving this action, SINSW recognises the benefit of working with DPIE and Council to provide joint and shared use opportunities in the Pyrmont Peninsula.

Shared community use opportunities could be explored to utilise existing assets such as the communal hall at Ultimo Public School and the gymnasium and basketball court facilities at the SSC Blackwattle Bay Campus. In addition, future investigations for multi-use educational and co-sharing facilities around the Wentworth Park precinct may be of benefit.

SINSW seeks to explore and implement joint and shared use opportunities with DPIE and Council where there is a mutual benefit for the school and community. However, this is subject to timing, funding and a Memorandum of Understanding developed between the parties.

**Temporary Pop-Up School:**

SINSW notes that the draft Strategy contains an action to investigate the temporary pop-up school in the Pyrmont Peninsula once its term expires. As per Clause 54A of the *Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No 26-City West* (SREP City West), the temporary pop-up school can operate at Wentworth Park without development consent until 31 December 2023. A Review of Environmental Factors (REF) was prepared for the temporary pop-up school in accordance with Clause 54A of SREP City West.

SINSW seeks to work with DPIE and Council to explore potential uses for this land post 31 December 2023. This could include potential opportunities for multi-use educational and co-sharing facilities.

**Infrastructure Contributions:**

SINSW is supportive of the draft Strategy action to investigate a local contribution regime for the Pyrmont Peninsula and opportunities for direct negotiations for key sites to contribute to the delivery of public benefits. Notwithstanding this, SINSW recommends that any potential future local contribution plan for the Pyrmont Peninsula considers the following:

- An exemption for public schools. This request is sought on the basis DoE, in conjunction with SINSW, provides essential social infrastructure for the direct benefit of the local Pyrmont Peninsula community.
- Requirements for public domain, transport and other infrastructure works required to support public schools in the Pyrmont Peninsula.
- The collection of specific contributions from new residential developments surrounding public schools and key residential sites in the Pyrmont Peninsula. This could be used to support, amongst other things, social education programs around active transport within the Pyrmont Peninsula.

The implementation of these recommendations within any potential future local contribution plan for the Pyrmont Peninsula will ensure projected growth resulting from the draft Strategy is appropriately accommodated for and new footpaths, pedestrian crossings and cycling lanes near and around public schools can be constructed to increasingly allow greater sustainable travel to and from schools.

**Audit of Education Facility Ownership:**

SINSW notes that page 57 of the Pyrmont Peninsula Social Infrastructure Assessment Report (July 2020) marks the following Pyrmont Peninsula sites as being owned by NSW Education:

- University of Technology, City Campus, Ultimo.

- University of Technology, City Campus, Haymarket.

This is incorrect. NSW Education does not own these sites. SINSW therefore requests that the correct site owners are identified and appropriately updated in all relevant documents to remove reference to NSW Education.

SINSW welcomes the opportunity to engage further about the draft Strategy and the content contained to this submission.

Should you require further information about this submission, please contact Lincoln Lawler at [Lincoln.Lawler@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Lincoln.Lawler@det.nsw.edu.au) and Jarred Statham at [Jarred.Statham2@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Jarred.Statham2@det.nsw.edu.au).

Yours Sincerely,



Alix Carpenter  
**Director - Statutory Planning**