



Sydney Regional Environmental Plan 26 – City West Amendment – Extension to temporary school

Explanation of Intended Effect

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Part A: Proposed amendment to Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No 26 – City West

The temporary school was originally established in Wentworth Park to accommodate Ultimo Public School during the redevelopment of the new Ultimo Public School.

The NSW Department of Education has identified a need to temporarily extend the use of the existing school at Wentworth Park on Wattle Street, in order to manage school upgrade works in the surrounding school cluster if decanting is identified as a preferred strategy by an affected school community.

The proposed amendment will amend Clause 54A (1)(e) of the Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No 26 – City West (SREP 26) to permit the use of the temporary school facility at Wentworth Park until 31 December 2023. No other changes to the temporary school site are proposed.

The current proposal represents a continuation of the temporary use of the site as a school. As a result, the planning and environmental impacts will likely be limited to the operational impacts of the school and the deferred reinstatement and improvement of the site for recreational open space to the end of 2023.

The temporary school area currently covers approximately 0.8 ha, less than 5% of the overall Wentworth Park/Sporting Complex. This would not change if the temporary use of the school site is extended.

The temporary school will not restrict access and use of the remainder of Wentworth Park by the public. The areas of the park used for organised sport activities will not be affected by this proposal.

Consequential amendments will also be made to Clause 54 (3) to update references to State Environmental Planning Policy (Infrastructure) 2007 to State Environmental Planning Policy (Educational Establishments and Child Care Facilities) 2017.

Part B: Background

Ultimo Public School

Ultimo Public School is currently being redeveloped to accommodate the growing student population in the school's catchment area. Once complete, the new Ultimo Public School will be able to accommodate an additional 500 students, bringing it to a total of 800 students.

A temporary school was needed to continue school operations during the redevelopment of the existing Ultimo Public School site. The NSW Department of Education identified Wentworth Park as the most suitable location for the temporary school.

In 2016, an amendment was made to SREP 26 to allow the temporary use of land for the purposes of a school at Wentworth Park, Ultimo. This enabled the students from Ultimo Public School to relocate temporarily until the construction of the new Ultimo Public School was completed.

SREP 26 Clause 54A(1)(e) requires the temporary use of the land as a school to cease by 31 December 2019.

A Review of Environmental Factors (REF) was prepared under Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) in July 2017 to assess the environmental impact of the temporary school facility at Wentworth Park.

Location

The temporary school is located on the southern portion of Wentworth Park, near the Ultimo Public School site. The area for the temporary school is partially within the public open space and partially within the Wentworth Park Sporting Complex grounds.

Figure 1 shows the existing temporary school site at Wentworth Park.

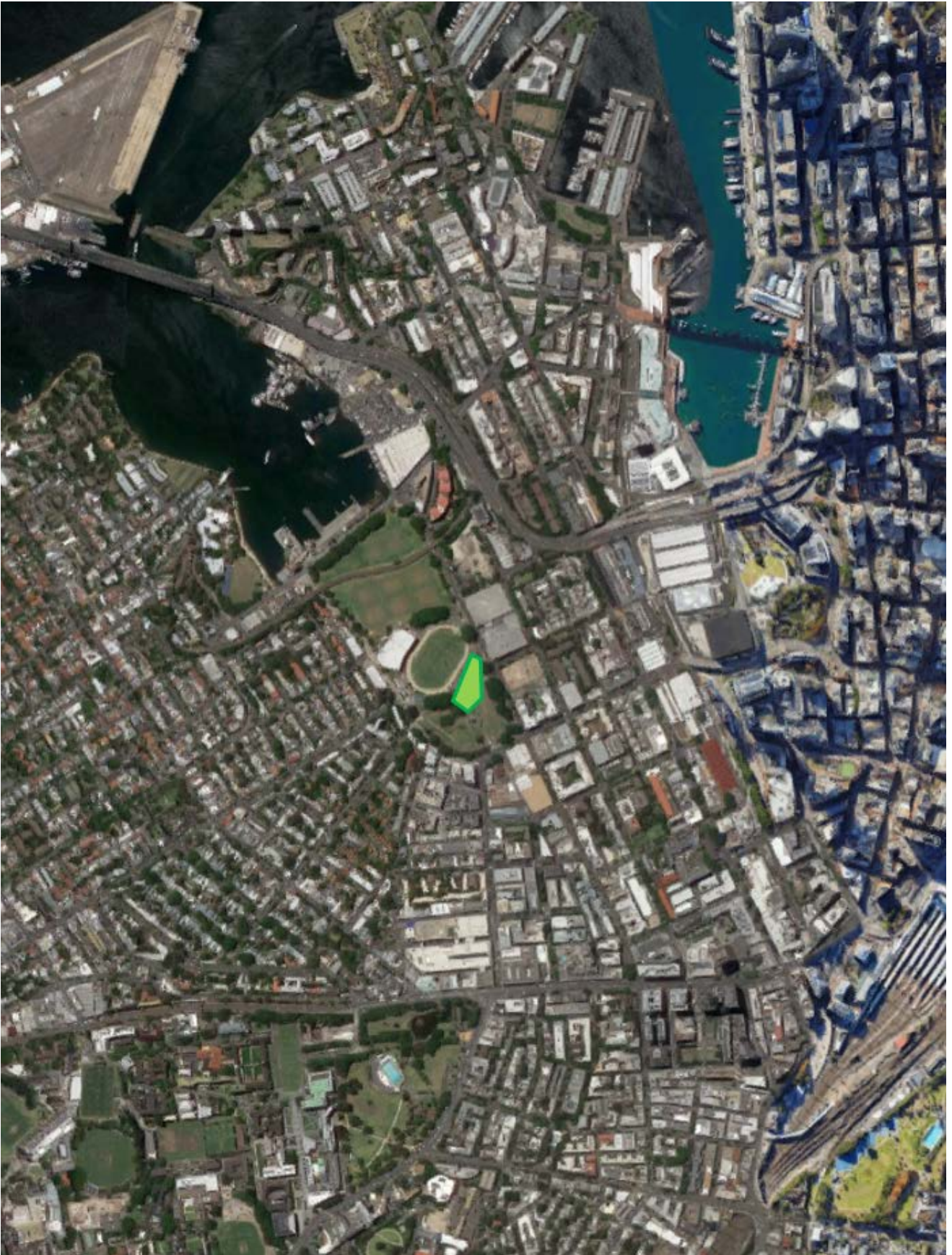


Figure 1 – Temporary Wentworth Park school site (green)

Current Planning Controls

SREP 26 sets out the planning controls for Wentworth Park and aims to:

- Establish planning principles for City West as a whole
- Establish planning principles and development controls for development in each Precinct within City West
- Promote the orderly and economic use and development of land within City West.

The controls related to the temporary use of land for the purpose of a school at Wentworth Park are set out in clause 54A of SREP 26. Currently the clause requires the temporary use of the land as a school to cease by 31 December 2019.

Wentworth Park is zoned Public Recreation under SREP 26. The objectives of the Public Recreation zone are:

- to establish public recreation areas which serve the needs of residents and workers within City West and the adjoining suburbs
- to provide public access to all parts of the public domain, especially waterfront areas and escarpments
- to provide a variety of public areas and recreational opportunities
- to provide for facilities which accommodate or are ancillary to recreation opportunities relating to the use of the public domain
- in the Bays Precinct, in addition to the other objectives of this zone—to allow for the continued operation and development of Wentworth Park as a major public open space and recreational facility.