From:	Activation Precincts
To:	Melissa Halloran
Subject:	FW: SINSW Submission - Wagga Wagga Special Activation Precinct draft master plan
Date:	Friday, 2 October 2020 3:39:06 PM
Attachments:	image001.jpg
	image002.png
	SINSW Submission - Wagga Wagga SAP Draft Materplan and Discussion Paper.pdf

Hi Mel,

Please see below/attached from Katie.

Em

Emma Thompson
Project Officer, Snowy Hydro Legacy Fund

Strategy, Delivery & Performance | Department of Regional NSW

66 Harrington Street, The Rocks NSW 2000
nsw.gov.au/regionalnsw

The Department of Regional New South Wales acknowledges that it stands on Country which always was and always will be Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters, and we show our respect for Elders past, present and emerging. We are committed to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work.

From: Katie Weaver
Sent: Friday, 2 October 2020 3:32 PM
To: Activation Precincts <activationprecincts@dpc.nsw.gov.au>
Cc:
Subject: SINSW Submission - Wagga Wagga Special Activation Precinct draft master plan

Hello,

School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW), as part of the Department of Education (DoE), welcomes the opportunity to provide the attached feedback on the Wagga Wagga Special Activation Precinct draft master plan and discussion paper.

While we acknowledge that the exhibition period for the draft has closed, we wish to provide the attached information for the Departments consideration.

Should you require further information on this submission, please feel free to contact the relevant planner.

Kind Regards,

Katie Weaver
Planner| **Schools Infrastructure NSW**

| @education.nsw.gov.au

Follow us
Twitter: @NSWEducation
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YouTube: NSWDepartmentofEducation
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I acknowledge the homelands of all Aboriginal people and pay my respect to Country.

2nd October 2020

Executive Director
Regions, Industry and Key Sites
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear Sir / Madam

RE: SUBMISSION TO WAGGA WAGGA SPECIAL ACTIVATION PRECINCT (SAP) DRAFT MASTERPLAN

School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW), as part of the Department of Education (DoE), welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the Wagga Wagga SAP draft master plan and Discussion Paper. 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 Masterplan 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 the City of Wagga Wagga Council (Council) to ensure infrastructure provision in the LGA aligns with growth through to 2036.

Growth Impact on Teaching Spaces:

SINSW notes that the draft Masterplan seeks to facilitate, amongst other things, upwards of 6,000 jobs over 20 years. The supporting documents also note that Wagga Wagga is forecast to experience population growth of approximately 22 per cent from 66,635 in 2018 to between 81,000 - 90,000 people by 2036 and over 100,000 people post 2038.

SINSW uses population and dwelling projection data (2019) provided by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) as the basis for school planning (refer Attachment A for further information on this process). DPIE estimates that the Wagga Wagga LGA will have a total population of 70,661 people by 2036 and 71,271 in 2041, which is approximately 19,339 persons less than predicted by Council within the draft Masterplan. Notwithstanding this, SINSW acknowledges that the above predictions are informed by development scenarios outlined within the Economic and Employment Analysis prepared by Macroplan (dated July 2020). This provides figures for three distinct scenario's within the SAP, which result in differing employment and population growth levels.

Several public schools have been identified within close proximity to the SAP boundary. These include the following:

- North Wagga PS
- Wagga Wagga PS

- Wagga Wagga HS
- South Wagga PS
- Turvey Park PS
- Sturt PS
- Kooringal PS
- Kooringal HS
- Henske PS
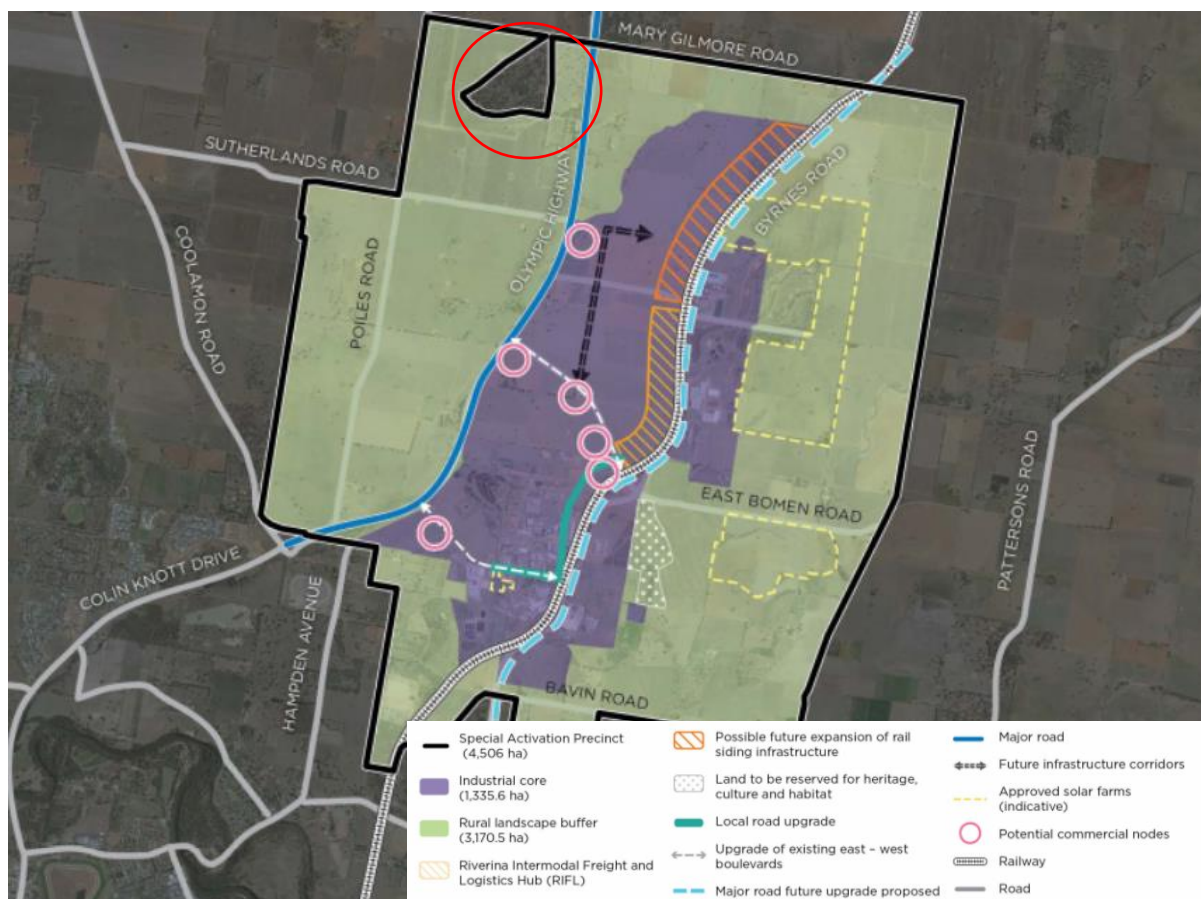- Mount Austin PS
- Red Hill PS
- Ashmont PS

Due to the proposed land uses within the SAP, SINSW does not anticipate any direct impacts on these schools. However, any growth and change identified for the locality will need to be considered carefully by SINSW with respect to the education needs of the community. 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. As such, SINSW requests consultation between SINSW, DPIE and Council occurs before the finalisation of the draft Masterplan. This is to ensure appropriate resourcing is provided for public schools to respond to new population projections that will result from the implementation of the SAP.

Proposed Zoning

SINSW has reviewed the Discussion Paper (dated July 2020) which accompanied the Masterplan package and notes that 'Schools' are expressly prohibited under the proposed land use strategy for all five zones within the SAP. This is due to their nature as sensitive uses.

The proposed SAP zones include three existing infrastructure zones under the *Wagga Wagga Local Environmental Plan 2012*, these being SP2 Special Purposes Infrastructure (roads, rail, and substation), RE1 Public Recreation and E2 (Environmental Protection). SINSW acknowledges that these are not 'prescribed zones' under Clause 33 of the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Educational Establishments and Child Care Facilities) 2017* (ESEPP) and therefore, no schools can be developed in these zones without being permissible under the relevant LEP.

Notwithstanding the above, a small portion of RU4 (Primary Production Small Lots) zoned land is located internal to the SAP area, but is excluded from the overall precinct (refer Figure 1 below). Educational establishments are expressly prohibited in this zone under the WLEP 2012, however this zone is listed as a 'prescribed zone' under the ESEPP. As such, development for the purpose of a school may still be carried out in this zone (subject to development consent). SINSW notes that the Land Use Matrix accompanying the draft Masterplan highlights the applicability of the ESEPP to the above zone.

Air Quality, Odour and Noise Impacts

SINSW notes the proposed air quality, odour and noise performance criteria outlined within the draft Masterplan as well as the inclusion of a 'consolidated noise, odour and air buffer area' which generally extends to the precinct boundary.

The Air, Noise and Odour Assessment (prepared by Todoroski Air Sciences Pty Ltd) highlights areas to the south of the SAP which may require additional mitigation to prevent impacts to sensitive uses. This is to account for potential differences between the modelled results and the actual emissions output from future industries. These areas are in proximity to the following schools:

- North Wagga Wagga Public School (PS)
- Wagga Wagga PS
- South Wagga Wagga PS

SINSW is committed to ongoing engagement with DPIE regarding satisfactory environmental mitigation measures for development within the SAP. To achieve this, SINSW requests that regular meetings occur between SINSW and DPIE, especially during development of the SAP. This will ensure SINSW can appropriately respond and adjust operational procedures as required. This is particularly important in the case of the above RU4 zoned land, which is capable supporting educational establishments (with consent).

Traffic and Transport Impacts:

SINSW is supportive of the draft Masterplans inclusion of active transport routes and facilities to/within the SAP boundary, however it is noted that increased growth will place further pressure on the existing transport networks within the LGA. As a result, it is essential that all modes of transport throughout the LGA are catered for. SINSW is therefore supportive of various actions that seek to deliver opportunities for greater active and public transport opportunities.

SINSW has reviewed the Transport and Traffic Plan prepared by WSP (dated July 2020) and offers the following commentary:

- Fine grain bus and pedestrian networks between existing/future residential and employment areas should be identified within the Masterplan and supporting documents, funded and delivered to promote a more pedestrian friendly environment. It is recommended that the applicable local contribution plan for the SAP area consider including requirements for transport infrastructure works.
- On-road bicycle connections are not suitable for students under 16. Students of this age require connected footpaths for safe travel. SINSW recommends the inclusion of a direct, spine corridor between the University, SAP and the Wagga Wagga Town Centre, with links to local primary and secondary schools.
- The bus network coverage and frequency required to service the SAP should be identified in the Masterplan and supporting documents.
- Given the freight focus of the draft Masterplan, it would be useful to apply TfNSW's *Movement and Place Framework* to identify where place-based functions should be prioritised – e.g. residential areas, primary and secondary schools.
- The public transport assessment of the proposed land use scenarios should connect the SAP area to the University and any new residential areas in the LGA.
- Any proposed active transport routes in/around the SAP should be physically separated from traffic. If the strategy employs a place-based assessment, walking paths should be prioritised to residential areas, primary and secondary schools.
- To manage traffic growth around the SAP, 'Peak Spreading' could be pursued to manage freight and school peak periods. This may reduce pressure on the transport networks and reduce conflicts with vulnerable pedestrians (i.e. students). Increasing capacity in each light vehicle (such as carpooling) would also delay the need to widen existing roads.
- *Table 8.1 – Transport Infrastructure Suggestions* should be amended to include details of associated footpaths or shared user paths.

To assist with future transport planning, SINSW can provide existing school locations, enrolment boundaries and depersonalised residential data to show where priority active transport corridors and public transport should be optimised to reduce one-car one-student kiss-and-drop. This will be important if child care or early learning is incorporated at these sites.

In addition, prior to any proposed works to roads in proximity to the above schools, SINSW requests that consultation be undertaken with the DoE Transport Technical Advisor. SINSW also recommends that the draft Masterplan consider the following

general actions to encourage and promote active and sustainable travel in and around the SAP boundary:

- Provide new and upgraded footpaths supported with lighting and way-finding
- Provide additional pram ramps, bus shelters, kerb outstands, refuge crossings, particularly around schools
- Provide new and upgraded Shared User Paths and scooter / bicycle parking, particularly around schools where a majority of students live outside a 15 minute walk catchment
- Implement lower vehicle speeds around sensitive land-uses, including schools
- Implement local area traffic calming, particularly around schools
- Improve pedestrian access to bus stop access and higher bus priority on roads to decrease bus journey times. This includes for school buses
- Provide bus shelters for departure bus stops adjacent to schools

Such actions should also be reflected in any future Place and Movement Plan for the SAP or Wagga Wagga LGA.

Miscellaneous Amendments:

SINSW requests the following amendments to Page 12 (*Section 2.3 – Visions and Aspirations)* of the draft Structure Plan:

- The 'Social + Community infrastructure' column should include primary and secondary schools.
- The 'Master Planning + Precinct Design' column should note the aim to provide a range of transport modes and futureproofing for independent mobility for people of all ages and abilities.

SINSW welcomes the opportunity to engage further with DPIE about the draft Masterplan and the content contained to this submission.

Should you require further information about this submission, please contact Lincoln Lawler at ███████████████████ and Katie Weaver at ███████████████████

Yours Sincerely,

Alix Carpenter
Director - Statutory Planning

Attachment A: NSW Department of Education – School Infrastructure NSW: Projecting Student Populations Fact Sheet

Projecting student age populations
The process and information used
September 2020

About population projections

When planning for new schools or the expansion of existing schools, School Infrastructure NSW uses long-term population and short-term enrolment projections to guide future investment decisions, including the location and scale of building works to meet service needs.

School Infrastructure NSW does not expect to exactly match school enrolments experienced to the projections made. There are too many variables and limitations in projection methodologies and data sets that enable projections to exactly match actual enrolments.

Step 1: NSW Common Planning Assumptions

The future population of NSW, including for persons aged 5-19 years (school students), is defined by trends in births, deaths and migration (international and internal).

These three variables are used to project how many people in all age groups between the ages of 0-100+ years are expected to reside in NSW over 5-year intervals that align with the census periods (2016, 2021, 2026, 2031, 2036, 2041). They paint a picture of NSW's population, including:

- how many people are likely to be living in NSW,
- likely age structure, and
- where in NSW they are likely to live.

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment prepares and releases these population projections following a constrained top-down methodology (State to LGA). They are provided for NSW Government agencies, local councils and the community and ensure a consistent view of the future NSW population. This enables NSW Government agencies to work with an agreed set of projections for proposals, business plans and strategies.

The release of population projections by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment provides the parameters for school planning by defining the future student population.

The NSW State Common Planning Assumptions is the underlying population projection data used by SINSW.

Step 2: Small area projections

Once the State, Regional/District and Local Government Area population projection has been released by the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment, they become limits in population because there can only be so many 5-19 year olds in NSW at any one time (collectively projected to be around 1.5million by 2036). This limitation ensures School Infrastructure NSW is not over-planning or under-planning for persons expected to be residing in NSW in the future.

However, the geography of school catchment areas are smaller than Local Government Areas. School Infrastructure NSW therefore disaggregates these population projections further to Statistical Areas 2 (SA2).

Statistical Areas Level 2 are medium-sized general-purpose areas (roughly the area of a postcode), representing a community that interacts together socially and economically. The SA2 is the smallest area for the release of Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) non-Census and intercensal statistics, including the Estimated Resident Population and Health & Vitals data.

This geography and information set gives School Infrastructure NSW the best official statistical details that are available for smaller areas to build a profile of the local community.

In this step, School Infrastructure NSW:

- Disaggregates the LGA age group projection to SA2 geography using ABS statistics and Department of Education data on enrolments via a top-down methodology;

- Applies the government and non-government school ratio to reflect the local characteristics and preferences for government and non-government schools; and

- Makes adjustments based on historical trends for primary and secondary school students – this accounts for the 4 year olds who are not in kindergarten, the 19 year olds who are not in high school and the very small number of students who are taught at home.

There are around
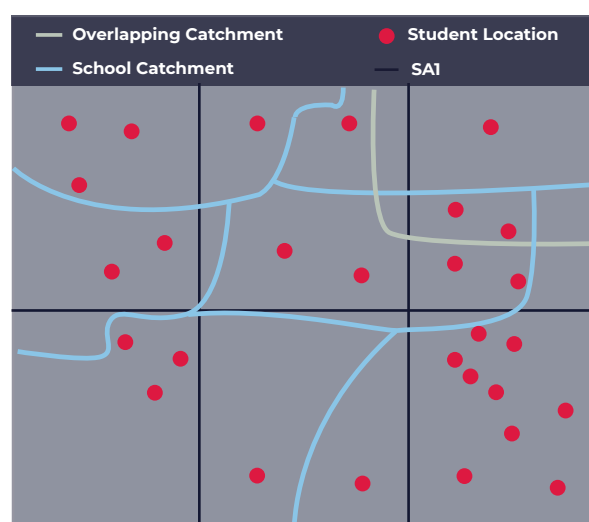**578** Statistical
Areas 2 in NSW

Step 3: Allocation to school catchment areas

Disaggregating the population enables School Infrastructure NSW to then aggregate (bottom-up methodology) to any other boundary or geography – such as school catchment areas. Because school catchment areas are not uniform and there are occurrences of overlap, this process requires an allocation model. School Infrastructure NSW applies this allocation model at an even smaller geography (SA1) so that the most granular information is used to determine how many students could be living in a school catchment area.

In this step, School Infrastructure NSW undertakes the following:

- An allocation model using multiple algorithms to assign future students in the projections to a catchment;

- The official Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's Sydney Housing Supply Forecasts are used to determine locally where the future population may reside and over what years housing is expected to be constructed and occupied;

- For regional NSW areas where official NSW Government Housing Supply Forecasts information is not currently available, current student locations are used as a proxy for the location of future students;

- Current student enrolment data is used as validation that residential housing exists and is being occupied by students;

- For newly established and rezoned greenfield areas where housing is yet to be constructed, proxy data is used until official data sets are updated with the latest census and enrolment information.

Step 4: Validate and improve

School Infrastructure NSW validates projections as new official data is released by comparing actuals with projections. New methodologies are also tested against previous data sets for comparison and validation. However, the variables in population projection inputs makes validation complex, including:

- Changes in school catchment areas and administration geographies – for example what was projected for a school catchment area or an LGA in a previous year may no longer be relevant;

- Variables in format and timing of data release;

- Development of new methodologies with advancement of technology (such as machine learning and artificial intelligence).

Projection inputs and constraints

A projection is the likely outcome of a set of assumptions and inputs. Any improvement in the quality of a projection relies on the quality of the underlying inputs. The primary inputs for the student by area projections include the following official data sets:

- NSW State Government Common Planning Assumptions for the future population by State, District, Region and LGA by age and sex;

- Department of Planning, Industry and Environment housing supply forecasts;

- Departmental enrolments by location; and

- Departmental enrolment projections.

A current challenge in determining student projections is the lack of centrally collected and consistently validated dwelling supply forecasts for areas in regional NSW. Without centralised and consistent forecast methodology on where and when housing is likely to occur in regional areas, future growth assumptions of regional towns within LGAs can be unclear.

Sydney Water's private dwelling connection data combined with data on the residential development pipeline collated from a number of sources, along with the market take up of existing zoned land and announced state led planning policies, are used to forecast the supply of dwellings for the Greater Sydney area. However, time lags in official data collections and releases is another constraint that School Infrastructure NSW needs to manage. For example, the NSW government school enrolment data is collected in March of every year, while census data is collected every five years but can be six before publicly released. This means there is always a lag between official information collection and what is happening on the ground.

School Infrastructure NSW regularly reviews the quality of its student projections, updating them with the latest available data or incorporating new data sources. School Infrastructure NSW also continues to monitor student and dwelling data, as well as develop and test projection methodologies.

NSW Department of Education – School Infrastructure

Frequently asked questions

The population projections are wrong, why?

Projections are not meant to be right or wrong, projections are a view on the key drivers and trends for a local area to consistently inform decision making when doing long-term planning.

Enrolments are greater than the population projections. Why?

Enrolments can be greater than the school catchment projection because the school is receiving students from outside of the catchment area, and/or the LGA population projection does not have enough people of student age (5-19 years) to allocate within the LGA to the schools.

Can we artificially increase the population projection?

We need to make sure that we plan for students based on the overall assumptions for births, deaths and migration as these variables are the drivers behind population size.

School Infrastructure NSW cannot artificially increase future population in one LGA from another. This is managed by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to ensure that all of government is working towards the same Common Planning Assumptions.

I think the base LGA population projections for 5-19 year olds are too low or high. Why is this and what can we do?

In some areas and LGAs undergoing rapid change, it can take time for official statistics to keep up to date with on the ground experiences. To manage this, other data sources and analysis such as short term enrolment data, district and regional plans, site visits or aerial photography may need to be used when assessing business plans and proposals.

Why is an area proposed for rezoning not included in housing forecasts and projections?

The Sydney Housing Supply Forecast provides an estimate of future housing supply that will be built in Sydney.

The Forecast is an estimate of the number of new dwellings that could be built if current zoning and planning controls remain the same. It reflects current trends in residential construction and approval activity. These trends could potentially change in the future as housing development is influenced by a wide variety of economic, social and other factors, many of which can't be foreseen. The Housing Supply Forecast is updated annually to reflect changes in government policy, market conditions and any new rezonings.

Can I get access to the projections?

The School Infrastructure NSW student population projections are available on School Infrastructure NSW's internal systems for governance control and oversight. This enables the projections to be updated regularly in a quality-controlled environment. Student population projections are not available publicly as they are regularly updated on internal systems, inform investment decisions and their release without further context on supply side assets can misinform the public on school needs.

How frequently are projections updated?

School Infrastructure NSW has the capability to frequently update projections, however updates are generally scheduled for January and June of each year to align with the collection of inputs from various information sources. Out of session updates can be made subject to approvals.

How often are the NSW Common Planning Assumptions updated and improved?

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment are looking to develop updates and insights to the Common Planning Assumptions to mitigate the time lag between official data collection points and experiences on the ground.

To improve the Common Planning Assumptions, whole of government forums are used linking key government agencies, including NSW Treasury and the NSW Data Analytics Centre, with the aim of accessing new source data and testing projection methodologies.

Stay Informed

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