



21/09/2021

Ms Helen Mulcahy
Principal Development Planner
Department of Education
Level 8, 259 George Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Ms Mulcahy

**Hawkesbury Centre of Excellence (SSD-15001460)
Response to Submissions**

The exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the above proposal ended on 14 September 2021. Submissions received from the public and government agencies during the exhibition of the project are available on the Department's website at:
<https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/41346>.

In accordance with clause 82 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000, the Planning Secretary requires the Applicant to respond to all issues raised in these submissions and government agency advice, and where necessary, technical supporting documents must be revised. The Department is awaiting submissions from Hawkesbury City Council, Infrastructure NSW and the Department of Defence-RAAF Base Richmond. A copy of these submissions will be provided upon receipt.

The Department has also undertaken a preliminary assessment of the EIS and, in addition to the issues raised in agency submissions, requires the matters at **Attachment 1** be addressed in full. You are requested to provide the Department with a response to the submissions within two months.

Note that under clause 113(7) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000, the days occurring between the date of this letter and the date on which you provide your Response to Submissions to the Department are not included in the deemed refusal period.

If you have any questions, please contact Navdeep Shergill on (02) 8289 6777 or via email at Navdeep.singhshergill@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Gibson'.

David Gibson
A/Director
Social & Infrastructure Assessments
as delegate for the Planning Secretary

ATTACHMENT 1 – KEY ISSUES

1. Traffic, Transport and Access

- The EIS proposes a signalised intersection at Londonderry Road and Vines Drive. Transport for NSW (TfNSW) states that a signalised intersection at this location would not be supported and that alternative crossing facilities should be proposed. The RtS must address the comments made following further consultation with TfNSW and consider an alternative pedestrian crossing facility, where required, to ensure safe and efficient movement of users, particularly considering the expected use of nearby bus stops by students of the school.
- The RtS must include an updated Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) that reflects the non-signalisation of the intersection of Londonderry Road and Vines Drive if it is not supported by TfNSW. This must include (but not limited to) traffic modelling, trip distribution assumptions and associated management and mitigation measures.
- The RtS must include an updated TIA that considers potential traffic impacts as a result of weekend conference events on the surrounding road network and include management and mitigation measures where required.
- The RtS must include measures to ensure that further shifts towards the cycling mode share for users of the site can be achieved. Given the distance from Richmond Station and the provision of bicycle racks on site, the Department considers that a mode share higher than 0% for cycling could be feasible and should be further promoted.
- The RtS must further detail measures to mitigate the identified bus service shortfall during peak period demand, including consultation with relevant bus service providers and/or investigating short trip bus shuttle options. A summary of consultation with bus providers must be included in the RtS.
- The RtS must be supported by a road safety audit report, prepared by an appropriately qualified traffic or transport engineer and must include (but not limited to) the operation of the following areas:
 - the operation of the drop-off/pick-up and car park facilities during all stages of development.
 - potential safety risks and hazards caused by the operation of the drop-off/pick-up and car park facilities for other users on Vines Drive and Maintenance Lane.
 - footpath sightlines.
 - adequacy of the surrounding network to enable buses and other vehicles to pass simultaneously.
- The RtS must provide an updated assessment on the proposed pedestrian footpath network servicing the walking catchment of the development and identify appropriate upgrades on the southern side of Vines Drive to provide direct access from the Londonderry Road bus facilities and on Maintenance Lane.

2. Built Form and Urban Design

- The RtS must further address the Government Architect NSW State Design Review Panel (SDRP) advice for the project and Government Architect comments dated 15 September 2021, in particular advice relating to:

- demonstrating how the indigenous culture and heritage has been integrated with the architectural and landscape design strategy in an integrative manner.
- demonstrating that the site has suitable, safe and efficient pedestrian connectivity and access, particularly from Londonderry Road.
- further technical details on the size and species of flora, opportunities to increase tree canopy cover across the site and that permeable surfaces areas are maximised across the site.

3. Biodiversity and Flooding

- The RtS must address the Environment, Energy and Science Group comments, including on the following matters:
 - confirm compliance with section 6.15 of the *Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016*, so that it can be verified that the date of submission of the Biodiversity Development Assessment Report (BDAR) is within 14 days of the date on the credit report.
 - provide the spatial data used as part of the BDAR assessment.
 - provide the assessment undertaken in the Biodiversity Offsets and Agreements Management System (BOAMS).
 - address the evacuation capacity of the school site, in consultation with the Hawkesbury Nepean Floodplain Risk Management Directorate of Infrastructure NSW, to ensure that it would not impact on the broader evacuation of others within the region during a regional flood event.

4. Bush fire

- The RtS must address the NSW Rural Fire Services (NSW RFS) requirements and where necessary, include revised technical drawings to demonstrate compliance.
- The RtS must include an updated bush fire emergency management and evacuation plan in accordance with:
 - the NSW RFS document: A Guide to Developing a Bush Fire Emergency Management and Evacuation Plan.
 - the NSW RFS Schools Program Guide and/or Australian Standard AS 3745:2010 Planning for emergencies in facilities.