



## PENDLE HILL HIGH SCHOOL UPGRADE – RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS

### Items 8 to 13 – Open Space

#### Comments from Agency / Organisation

##### **Open Space**

*The Social Impact Assessment recognises the reduced opportunities for sport and recreation within the school site and the increased demand for recreational facilities facilitated by higher student numbers, which will likely result in cumulative impacts to nearby Council facilities through higher levels of use. It also acknowledges that the remaining playing field lacks facilities required for wider community access, such as toilets and changerooms. To address these impacts, it recommends that the quality of the remaining open space within the site be improved to increase capacity, through the following:*

1. *Providing adequate shading over paved passive areas to ensure these spaces are used during hot days.*

*Considering issues such as urban heat and increasing intensity and duration of hot days as a product of a changing climate, adapting paved areas to have excellent thermal comfort will ensure greater use throughout the year. This may include shading trees, landscaping and/or shade sails.*

2. *Providing adequate shading over hardcourts to ensure these spaces are used during hot days.*

*As identified in the previous recommendation, increasing the thermal comfort of these spaces can assist in future-proofing recreational facilities at Pendle Hill High School.*

3. *Activating other open spaces within the school grounds.  
A key strength of Pendle Hill High School is the large amount of open space on site. Investment and embellishment of previously less 'used' areas of open space can increase these spaces ability to perform at a higher standard.*

4. *Embellishment of existing hardcourts  
To ensure they have desired recreation spaces that perform at a suitable standard.*

*These recommendations are considered critical and should be implemented to ensure superior amenity and enhanced usage by the increased student population. At the same time, these recommendations help minimise any potential cumulative impacts of increased demand on nearby Council facilities which have limited capacity in serving the community at large.*



### Response

In general, while this project represents a reduction in the overall amount of open play space currently available on the site, this issue has been considered in the context of the overall long-term masterplan.

School Infrastructure NSW sets the minimum open play space requirement of 10m<sup>2</sup> / student.

At the completion of this development, the school will achieve 36.5m<sup>2</sup> / student.

Therefore, while the amount of open space available on the site is being reduced, this will not impact on the functionality of the play spaces for the school.

Further to this, we have reviewed the amenity of the play spaces around the school in response to the items raised – as outlined below –

#### 1. Providing Shading to Passive Areas

Within the area of site impacted by the proposed development there are a number of elements of shading provided –

- The main roof of the proposed building provides shading to the central courtyard spaces
- The link roof provided between building H and the existing buildings provide shade to the pedestrian paths as well as to the turfed areas to the South
- The form of Building H provides shading to the playing fields to the South of the building
- Outdoor seats with shade umbrellas are provided to the courtyard to the West of Building E
- The trees provided to the outdoor spaces around Buildings H and E will provide shade to the surrounding areas.

We believe the level of shading included will provide sufficient areas of shade during the summer months, while also allowing for sunny spaces during the winter months. Therefore, we don't believe it is appropriate to provide additional shading to the area of work proposed within this stage.

Further to this, we have reviewed the shading provided to other areas of the site. In relation to these spaces we note the following -

- There are a number of shade structures provided around the perimeter of existing Central Assembly Area. The area is also shaded to by the buildings around it – particularly Buildings B and C. The remainder of the central assembly is required for large scale school gatherings. Therefore, we don't believe it is appropriate to apply further shade structures or planting into this area.
- Additional shade cloth structures have recently been installed by the school over the existing games court adjacent to Building F (the Hall) to the West of the site.
- There are a number of mature existing trees that provide shading to the other play areas around the rest of the site.

The areas of shading discussed above are highlighted in drawing SK-9001 as attached to this submission.



## **2. Providing Adequate Shade to Hardcourts**

As discussed above, the school has recently installed shade cloth structures to provide shade over the existing games courts adjacent to the Hall building (Building F) in the West of the site.

The other existing games courts, to the North of Building E are not covered.

The addition of these shade structures means that one third of the existing games courts are shaded and the remainder of the games courts are uncovered. We believe this is appropriate. Therefore, we don't believe that additional shade structures are required to these areas.

## **3. Activating Other Open Spaces Within the School**

We note that these areas are outside of the scope of this project and will be impacted by the long-term masterplan on the site.

## **4. Embellishment of the Existing Hardcourts**

As discussed above, the school has recently undertaken some embellishment works to the games court adjacent to Building F (the Hall). As part of these works the courts have been resurfaced and provided with new linemarking.

The existing hard courts are finished in bitumen with appropriate linemarking. This is generally considered acceptable for a school of this nature.

Therefore, we believe the current condition of the games courts is acceptable and no further work is necessary as part of this project.