



## The Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC

Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning  
Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Mr A H Greenwich MP  
Member for Sydney  
Ground Floor  
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DARLINGHURST NSW 2010

RML20/3114

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Dear Mr Greenwich

Thank you for your representations of 9 July 2020, on behalf of the Fort Street Public School community and Millers Point Resident Action Group, regarding Fort Street Public School redevelopment.

I have sought clarification and advice from the Department of Education on this matter and I am advised of the following.

To meet the projected enrolment growth in the area, School Infrastructure NSW (SINSW) is proposing to increase the capacity of Fort Street Public School. Clever design will ensure that the new facilities provide modern facilities to meet modern standards and support contemporary teaching practices.

SINSW have considered a range of options for constructing the school upgrade, including the delivery of the proposed works over stages. However, due to Fort Street Public School's highly constrained site, any construction work will result in significant disruptions to the operation of the school. SINSW are planning to relocate the school to the Wentworth Park pop-up school as it is neither safe nor practical to keep students and staff on site while construction is underway. By ensuring the upgrade caters to longer-term student demand, SINSW can avoid unnecessary future disruptions, including the need to relocate students and staff again.

The school is very conscious of the need to carefully manage and maintain student safety regarding traffic, particularly at the school's entrance. The proposed car queueing arrangements for drop-off and pick-up periods, together with the careful supervision by the school are completely focussed on ensuring student safety and improvements on current arrangements.

Once the upgrade to the Sydney Harbour Bridge cycleway is complete, a fence will be installed separating the school from the new cycleway, limiting the interaction between vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists.

Fort Street Public School is currently reviewing its timetable to consider options to maximise the amount of play space available per student during breaks. This includes the use of staggered lunch and recess times, which allow better use of the school's outdoor space. The school also plans to continue using Observatory Hill for a number of school activities, including the annual cross country carnival, the weekly running club and touch football training.

The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE) is now assessing the State Significant Development Application (SSDA) for the Fort Street Public School upgrade. SINSW has formally responded to all community and government agency submissions to the SSDA through its response to DPIE, which includes detailed responses to the items raised in your correspondence. SINSW's formal response to submissions will be available at <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/13596>.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Sarah Mitchell MLC**

18 August 2020