

19.3 NOTICE OF MOTION - CHATSWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	DEBRA JUST – GENERAL MANAGER
AUTHOR:	DEBRA JUST – GENERAL MANAGER
CITY STRATEGY LINK:	3.1.2 QUALITY LIVING AMENITY FOR RESIDENTS
MEETING DATE:	27 FEBRUARY 2017

Purpose of Report

Councillor Saville has indicated her intention to move the following Notice of Motion.

Motion

That Willoughby City Council makes representations to our local MP, Ms Gladys Berejiklian, the Premier of NSW, the Minister for Education, Mr. R. Stokes, Minister for Planning and the Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Foley with regards to:

- a) serious over-crowding at Chatswood Public School, and anticipated future population increases which will put further pressure on the school;**
- b) addressing the urgent need to accommodate more students at local public schools in Chatswood; and**
- c) the DET investigating options for increasing the capacity of its education facilities in Willoughby, including the provision of additional land and facilities.**

Background

Chatswood Public School (CPS) has capacity for approx 800 students. Currently CPS has over 1,200 students, and the Chatswood High School (CHS) has over 1,400 students.

In 2017, at CPS there are 51 classes (which includes 11 kindy classes an increase from 10 kindergarten classes in 2016). There are 31 permanent classrooms, and 22 demountable classrooms (which includes 11 demountable classrooms at the Bush Campus and also includes 1 additional demountable classroom which is currently being built, 1 class is currently in the library).

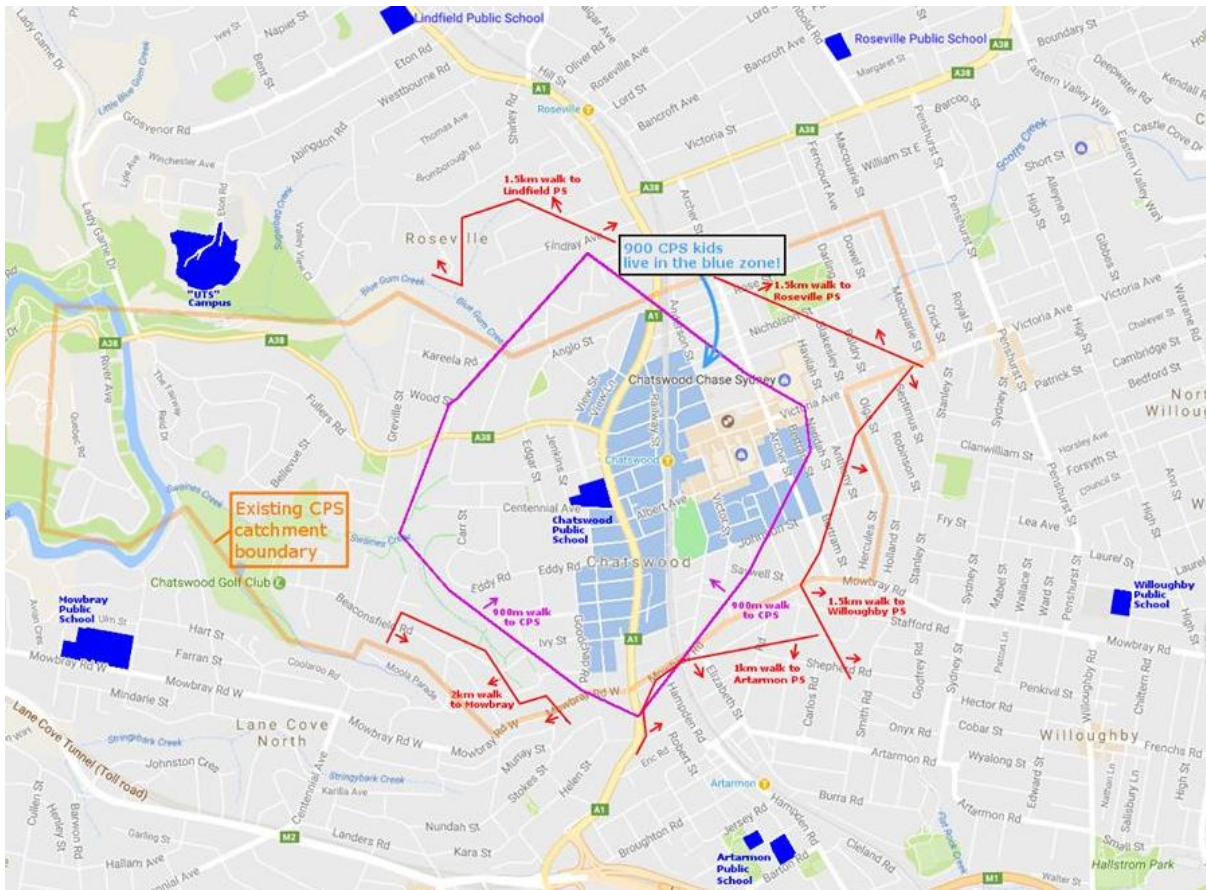
There is insufficient space for more classrooms required for the future. Where do new demountables go? Insufficient outdoor space. The school Hall is too small.

Chatswood residential growth and pressure for increased residential development in this precinct. There are many medium and high rise apartments within a very close distance.

Mowbray PS enrolments last year = 425. This year approx 525 with expected capacity for around 1000 students with the new building.

New school at UTS site planned for 2019, for approx 2000 students? (K to 12). However re-zoning will not help ease the situation significantly.

Joe Grundy (Parent & P&C member) drew up a map below indicating that 900 children enrolled at CPS live within 900m of the school.



With residential developments happening nearby (such as the recent approval of 654-666 Pacific Hwy/Freeman Rd/Oliver Rd), enrolments will only increase. There are also many residential developments along Boundary Rd (Roseville PS catchment / near Lindfield PS & UTS catchment area), along Mowbray Rd (Mowbray PS catchment), many new apartments going up in Lane Cove, and also in nearby North Ryde along Delhi Rd (opposite Cemetery, next to/above train station) and cnr Delhi Rd & Epping Rd .

A masterplan developed a while ago was forwarded to local MP Ms Gladys Berejiklian some time ago, she indicated agreement with it, and it was forwarded to the Dept of Ed, and there has been no response. It appears that there has been no further communication with the school nor evidence of progress.

CPS P&C has money to invest for small infrastructure projects, but not for major projects, still need government/DET approval. The P&C hope to seek some clarification of 5 & 10 yr plans for the school. It is difficult to invest P&C money, if there is uncertainty over Dept of Ed's plans.

The masterplan had included:

- retractable seating in the hall to increase seating capacity (which P&C were prepared to fund)
- double-loading of A block (main building on Pacific Hwy) to include 5 extra classrooms on other side of corridor.
- corridor through to E block (double demountables on cnr Pac Hwy & Centennial) for better access.

Further options outlined by parents at the P&C include:

- Developing the lower playground with a few levels for carpark, classrooms, playspace, with driveway access from James St. which is extremely narrow,

- Re-developing the cottage (after the fire in January) and surrounding area (currently includes 2 demountables, nearest cnr of Centennial Ave & Jenkins St). Perhaps a mirror image of the 6 permanent classrooms of D block.
- Developing a row of buildings along perimeter along Centennial Ave (would involve removing existing demountables and losing hall, canteen, toilets and row of classrooms on southern side... staged to minimise impact on school.
- Hiring office space across the road for classrooms for Years 5&6.

P&C had previously considered :

- a canteen at Bush Campus (BC) (but uncertainty over whether BC remains part of CPS)
- play equipment at Bush Campus (but uncertainty over whether BC remains part of CPS)

CHS would like BC area returned to HS. HS also running out of classroom space. CPS P&C wanted clarification from Dept if it can be made permanent for use of primary school, and if so, then they can make plans to invest in the area. Comments have been made about the erosion of the available play space at Bush Campus.

Link to CPS Masterplan developed a while ago (before cottage fire which is now unusable)

<http://www.chatswoodps.nsw.edu.au/p--c-documents-and-links.html>

Issue for consideration: planning for disability access (we currently have at least 2 physically disabled children at our school, one requiring a wheelchair full time, one with a walking frame or walking sticks), and pram access.

General Manager's Comments

At the Council meeting of 24 September 2012, the following Notice of Motion was put by Councillor Hooper and carried unanimously:

That Willoughby City Council make representation to the Premier, Minister for Planning, Minister for Education and local State Members of Parliament seeking:

- a) Emergency major capital works funding for needed buildings for our local schools;*
- b) For public school capacity to be included as 'essential infrastructure' under State Planning legislation and the Sydney Metro Plan;*
- c) For Metro Plan targets for new residential dwellings to be revised downwards until sufficient capacity has been identified, funded and provided in our local schools to accommodate existing and forecast student numbers in the area.*

Subsequent to the Council resolution, there was a public meeting convened by the members of the P&C at Willoughby Girls High School to address discuss the public schools overcrowding issue on Monday 26 November 2012, at which there were a number of Councillors and Council Officers from Willoughby City Council present.

Since then Council Officers have worked closely with the Assets Department of the Department of Education to ensure that the issue of overcrowding is addressed through their master planning processes. In conjunction with this, the Mayor, General Manager and Community, Culture and Leisure Director made personal representation to the Minister for Education, Mr Adrian Piccoli, MP on 24 February 2016.

At this meeting, concerns regarding the issue of overcrowding were once again raised on behalf of the residents of the Willoughby Local Government area.

Council Officers continue to work with the Department of Education to ensure that this issue remains as a priority on the Department's agenda.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council consider the Notice of Motion from Councillor Saville.

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