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RECORDS

Dear Mr. Pelcz

**RE: St Leonards South Draft Master Plan**

I write in response to your recent communications and thank you for inviting the Department of Education and Communities (the Department) to comment on the draft Master Plan.

Your advice is that this planning proposal will generate up to 3,000 additional dwellings. Based on the existing rate of children living in housing of the nature proposed (in the Lane Cove Local Government Area) we would expect the development to accommodate around 240 primary school age students and 150 high school aged students. Therefore additional education infrastructure is likely to be required to service population increases.

In terms of the school age population, DEC expects that 3,000 residential units would generate the following student numbers split by Government share.

Age Group	Total Yield	Government Share	Government Yield
Primary School	240	63%	150
High School	150	27%	40

Note: 1. school age population yield is based on 2011 census.  
2. There has been an increasing trend of school age children living in medium density dwellings. DEC is investigating these trends and their impact on projected enrolments.

As you would expect the proposal will significantly increase educational demand in the future, potentially requiring significant investment in new education infrastructure.

Our challenge is to plan for the expected increase in student population arising from major development, in the most efficient and effective way. The Department encourages the broader state planning system and for Lane Cove Council to be supportive of land use development policies and mitigation measures that address these pressures.

On a state-wide basis DEC is supportive of a shift in planning decisions and policies which will encourage:-

- the infrastructure costs of additional teaching spaces to be funded from developer contributions;

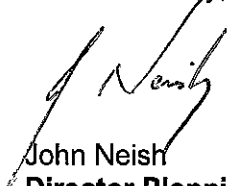
- optimising the size, amenity and function of existing schools so that they afford greater choice and provide contemporary teaching spaces for students;
- facilitating out of hours shared use of education facilities such as ovals and halls;
- the removal of planning policy barriers to school development;
- land and floorspace dedications and appropriate zoning in areas where a new school is required; and
- streamlined planning approvals for new education infrastructure

If fully realised, these proposals will support the augmentation of education infrastructure to keep pace with the projected student demand generated by planning proposals such as that proposed at South St Leonards.

In summary, the proposal will generate infrastructure requirements that cannot be met by the existing provision. Where possible, DEC is keen to further negotiations with the Council and land owners to find solutions to enable the delivery of additional infrastructure. With this in mind we look forward to working with the Council to ensure the best outcome for the community.

If you would like to discuss this response and/or schools planning for the Lane Cove Local Government Area, please do not hesitate to contact Joe Lantz, Senior Asset Planner on 9561 1058.

Yours sincerely,



**John Neish**  
**Director Planning and Demography**  
**Asset Management**

*3rd* June 2015