

GOVERNMENT ARCHITECT NEW SOUTH WALES

20.08.20

Tina Tang and Jane Lloyd
Jattca Property Solutions
Via email –
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

PROJECT: Sydney Grammar School (SGS) Weigall Sports Complex
RE: SDRP SESSION 60 – 12.08.2020 (first review)

Dear Tina and Jane,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the above project at this stage. Please find a summary of advice and recommendations arising from the design review session held on 12.08.2020.

The team's thorough presentation clearly explained the opportunities, constraints and masterplan for the Weigall Sports Fields. Generally, the design approach to the project is supported, in particular:

- Overall masterplan and landscape design incorporating landscape elements, views and connection to the sports fields;
- Thorough and clear environmental sustainability initiatives including carbon neutrality of the site and building;
- Placement of the sports complex to the southern edge of the fields allowing for views and solar access to the north;
- The 'arbor' as above ground carpark, COLA and pick-up location;
- Proposed materials palette including off-form concrete, timber finishes and planted screens.

The following commentary provides recommendations for the further development of the project:

Masterplan & Landscape

- Planting species are to be clearly noted on the Landscape Plan including for the Car Park and Southern Garden;
- Clarify what the floor finish will be on the upper level of the carpark and any potential views down onto it.
- Confirm how far the planted screen will project above the floor level and the species selection for this screen;
- Provide details on the acoustic mitigation methods to ensure there is no negative impact to the adjacent units to the south and across Nield Ave;

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- Clarify if these facilities will be made available to the public/ greater school community and confirm hours of operation;
- Clarify methods and schedule of drop off and pick up to ensure that children are not left waiting in Alma St;
- Clarify how the carpark will work as a designated pick up area while managing the competing interests inherent in the movement of children and cars;
- Tree retention is encouraged for shade, amenity and aesthetic quality. Provide arborist report to indicate significance of existing trees and clarify trees to be retained, new trees proposed and trees to be removed;
- Provide diagrams showing the student movement through the building and security points; for example how does a student arriving before 7am get from the drop off point to the changerooms;
- Provide diagrams showing the entry sequence of people being delivered to the eastern carpark;
- Provide details of how connection to Country and engagement with Indigenous Culture and Heritage will be demonstrated through the proposal;
- Clarify DDA accessibility between entry points, landscape areas and built form;
- No gate is shown to the vehicle access at Boundary St, clarify if one is to be installed;
- Explain the shared facilities plan, if any, with the proposed White City development.

Architecture

- We understand that a comprehensive neighbor consultation process has occurred, and this has informed the design of the building, in particular relating to the near neighbours to the south. Notwithstanding this, significant overshadowing remains to some units. Explore opportunities to relocate plant to mitigate overshadowing where possible;
- The proposed sports complex and car park building are pavilions, seen in the round and approachable from all sides. This calls for a more thorough and considered response to context. Please provide elevations of all four sides of both buildings at the next SDRP;
- Consider a more articulated approach to the southern and western façades of the building; explore references to the finer grain of the local terrace forms of Paddington. Please provide street elevations demonstrating the further refinement, architectural detail and articulation to the Nield and Boundary St elevations;
- The large expanse of glazing and cantilevered roof form to the north eastern corner currently has a commercial quality. There is an opportunity here to employ large operable windows that open to the north and east to allow natural ventilation and increased openness. A similar strategy may be suitable for the pools;

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- Consider more of a filigree detail rather than glass balustrades to the main central stair;
- Please provide additional views of the car park both with and without cars;
- Provide details as to how the Car Park at ground level will be separated from the sports fields when it is being used as car park;

The items raised above should be addressed in the SSDA and we look forward to further review of this project as it progresses through the assessment process.

Please contact GANSW Design Advisor, Caroline Comino

[REDACTED] if you have any queries regarding this advice.



Rory Toomey
Principal Design Excellence
Chair, SDRP

CC	
NSW SDRP Panel members	Matthew Bennet, Amanda Roberts, Rory Toomey (Chair – GANSW)
GANSW Design Advisor	Caroline Comino
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