

Submission Number: 49

Submitted at: 8/25/2022 7:18:00 PM

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ULTIMO PandC

Again we ask that the Pyrmont side of Blackwattle Bay be a new middle school for Pyrmont - Ultimo. Infrastructure NSW should act as a government body, and establish societal infrastructure - a new school on this public foreshore. It should not act as a faux property developer aiming to rezone and sell this land.

We have just had to build a new primary school at Ultimo, as Pyrmont's own primary school was sold off in the 1990s under NSW Planning recommendations. Planning needs to rectify that blunder and provide a new school. The new primary school built in 2020, already has over 440 students, up from under 300 just three years ago. Our capacity of 800 could be reached in 7 years.

Now our high school demand is pressing, the catchment keeps on shrinking, three years ago kids here could go to Hunters Hill High and before that Leichhardt High, now all kids are sent to Balmain High school which has started to putting up demountables as it fills up. Blackwattle Bay High (Sydney Secondary College) the old Glebe High School sits on the foreshore directly opposite this site, it takes in kids from years 11 to 12. Areas 3 or 2 or both in this planning proposal are required as a new middle school for years 7 to 10.

Prioritizing a new high school for years 7 to 10 would be a massive activator for the area, and like the existing Blackwattle bay campus these grounds along the foreshore could be used by everyone on weekends and late afternoons. We used to put our schools on the best sites, near parks and foreshores, we should do it once more.

Selling off public land for residential, is a double whammy for Pyrmont as it increases the demand for schools, but takes potential new sites away. The City of Sydney recently sold off their largest public land site in Pyrmont (Fig & Wattle) for more residential units too. This leaves the Blackwattle site as the only public site that could accommodate a new school. We need vision.