



Mr Keith Dedden
General Manager, Property Development
Coal and Allied Operations Pty Ltd
Level 3, West Tower
410 Ann Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Dedden,

I refer to your letter dated 28 July 2008, seeking confirmation of the Department of Education and Training's revised school land requirements anticipated as a result of the revised forecast of potential dwellings anticipated to be achieved from Coal and Allied lands at Minmi. I apologise for the delay in responding formally to your letter.

I understand that the anticipated number of dwellings is likely to be substantially reduced from the previous estimate of 6,300 dwelling units and that, as a consequence, the Department of Education and Training's requirements for government school sites would also be reduced. As you indicate, this information was conveyed informally between Ms Lesley Greenwood in the Department and Ms Jackie Ohlin of Urbis Social, Coal and Allied's consultant.

I understand that the forecast dwelling yield is currently anticipated to be around 3,300 dwellings, that is, still consistent with your advice of July last year. I therefore confirm the Department's anticipated requirements as being a 1.35-hectare site extension to the current small Minmi Public School, to enable it to be upgraded, and a four-hectare primary school site suitably located within the proposed new residential area.

The Department is interested in your suggestion of an adjoining parcel of land to the Minmi Public School and is agreeable to liaising with Coal and Allied representatives concerning the site extension. The contact officer for discussion on this matter is Mr Roger Millott, A/Manager, Sites, telephone 9561 8958 or email roger.millott@det.nsw.edu.au

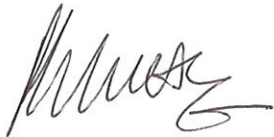
The need to cater for special needs students was also factored in to the Department's original consideration of school sites. The preference was for a special needs school facility to be incorporated in a combined primary/secondary/special needs school site. If sufficient threshold demand for the secondary school is no longer likely, the Department's request for a larger (four-hectare) primary school site will offer some planning flexibility to cater for special needs students.

It is also noted that Coal and Allied lands comprise only a portion of the potential development area known as the Newcastle-Lake Macquarie Western Corridor. While the need for an additional secondary school and second new primary school are unlikely - given the reduced dwelling yield and the current secondary school capability around the local area - the Department advises that it is unlikely to require sites for these facilities. However, it will continue to monitor the progress of planning proposals and will reconsider its requirements if there is a shift back to significantly higher dwelling yields.

For further consultation on school planning matters associated with the Minmi residential development, the Department's contact officer is Ms Lesley Greenwood, Manager, Service Planning, telephone 9561 8466 or email lesley.greenwood@det.nsw.edu.au

I trust that this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely



Paul Culshaw
Director, Strategic Asset Planning and Procurement

18/2/09

cc. Ms Caitlin Bennet,
Team Leader, Hunter Projects
Department of Planning