NEW SOUTH WALES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING



Early Childhood and Primary Education Secondary Education Technical and Further Education Vocational Education and Training Higher Education Adult and Community Education

DOC 09/7407

Ms Caitlin Bennett Team Leader, Strategic Assessments NSW Department of Planning GPO Box 39 SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Ms Bennett,

Re: State Significant Site Listing and Concept Plan – Minmi (MP 08_0125)

I refer to your letter dated 12 February 2009, inviting comment from the Department of Education and Training on the proposed Concept Plan for Minmi, Newcastle Link Road North and south Residential development.

On the basis that the forecast dwelling yield is currently anticipated to be around 3,300 dwellings, the Department of Education and Training has indicated its anticipated infrastructure 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.

It is noted that the Concept Plan makes provision for land for a future primary school and land for future expansion of the existing Minmi Public School.

It is further noted however, that the proposed establishment of a primary school in the Link Road South Precinct allows for only a three hectare site. The need to cater for special needs students was also factored in to the Department's original consideration of school sites. The request for a larger (four-hectare) primary school site will offer some planning flexibility to cater for special needs students.

The Department recognises that Coal and Allied lands comprise only a portion of the potential development area known as the Newcastle-Lake Macquarie Western Corridor, and will continue to monitor the progress of planning proposals. Educational requirements will be reconsidered if there is a shift back to the significantly higher dwelling yields that were originally proposed in this area.

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

Doug White

R/Director, Strategic Asset Planning and Procurement 23 March 2009