

Introduction

Over the past decade, the number of students applying to study at the University's Kuring-gai Campus has steadily declined while applications for places at the City Campus have increased.

In 2003, this disturbing trend led UTS to consider the available options for its Kuring-gai Campus and in 2007 the University sought to rezone the site at Lindfield on which its campus stands.

In June 2008, the NSW Minister for Planning approved the University's Kuring-gai campus rezoning application and concept plan. UTS now seeks to amend the concept plan to comply with the conditions detailed in the Minister's approval and to retain the gymnasium the University previously sought to demolish.

In December 2009, the NSW Department of Planning will consider the University's proposed amendment which is outlined in the diagram opposite. If accepted, the amended UTS Kuring-gai Campus Concept Plan will include the gymnasium as it stands today and the local community will retain a popular amenity.

Context

UTS Kuring-gai is located on the south-western fringe of Lindfield, 1.2 km from the Pacific Highway and 16 km from Sydney's CBD. The 21-hectare site is bordered by the Lane Cove National Park.

The Kuring-gai campus currently provides facilities for students across three faculties:

- > Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Health;
- > Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (Teacher Education); and
- > Faculty of Business (including the School of Leisure, Sport and Tourism).

Nursing and some of the Business courses are also offered at the UTS city campus.

While UTS and its antecedents have been proud to be part of the Kuring-gai community for the past 40+ years, the needs of its students have changed significantly over this time. Fewer and fewer students are choosing to study at the Kuring-gai campus. Students say they prefer the city campus because it is more conveniently located relative to their part-time jobs, easier to access, is better for night-time study, offers greater accommodation options and a broader range of entertainment opportunities.

Even though UTS continues to try to attract students to the Kuring-gai campus by offering them a lower Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR – formerly University Admission Index or UAI) score, many students are choosing to study elsewhere if they miss out on a place at the city campus but are offered a place at the Kuring-gai campus.

To fulfill the goal of providing its students with the best possible teaching, learning and research experiences, and contribute to state and national priorities (particularly education and health priorities), UTS reassessed the role of its Kuring-gai campus and determined the campus in its current form was not sustainable.

Current Situation

UTS is seeking to amend its current concept plan to:

- > Retain the gymnasium it previously sought to demolish
- > Comply with the conditions stipulated in the NSW Minister for Planning's project approval (dated 11 June 2008).

The NSW Department of Planning has determined that UTS is to undertake a community consultation exercise and include a report of the same to support its current amendment application.

Communication Objectives

The objectives of the community consultation exercise are two-fold:

- > INFORM key stakeholders (staff, students, local residents, community organisations, etc.) of the proposed amendments to the UTS Kuring-gai Campus Concept Plan;
- > INVITE feedback and commentary from key stakeholders regarding the proposed changes; and
- > INFORM, if necessary, any further amendments to the UTS Kuring-gai Campus Concept Plan in response to community feedback.

Communication Activities

Activities undertaken as part of the community consultation exercise are as follows:

- > Email communication to former Community Reference Group (CRG members) advising them of the proposed change and inviting them to the Community Meeting
 - email sent on Tuesday, 24 November
- > eNewsletter (InBrief) to all UTS staff from the Vice-Chancellor advising them of the proposed change and inviting them to the Community Meeting
 - broadcast sent on Wednesday, 25 November
- > Letters (unpersonalised) to 700 local residents advising them of the proposed change and inviting them to the Community Meeting
 - letters distributed on Wednesday, 25 November
- > Advertisement in the *North Shore Times* advising readers of the proposed change and inviting them to the Community Meeting
 - appeared in the Wednesday, 25 November and Friday, 27 November editions of the publication
- > UTS Website amended to provide information about the proposed amendment as well as mechanisms for providing feedback regarding the same
 - effective Tuesday, 24 November (<http://www.uts.edu.au/about/executive/kuringgai/>)
- > Community Meeting to provide information about the proposed amendment, answer any questions and record any feedback regarding the same
 - held on Monday, 30 November
- > Exhibition of amendments on display at Kuring-gai Campus (main foyer)
 - From Tuesday, 1 December to COB Monday, 7 December

Community Meeting

The Community Meeting was held on Monday, 30 November (6:30pm – 8:00pm) at the UTS Kuring-gai Campus (North Shore Conference Centre)

Attending from UTS:

- > Patrick Woods, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice President (Resources)
- > Clive Gunton, Manager, Campus Development and PDR
- > Jacqui Wise, Director, Marketing & Communication Unit

Also in attendance:

- > Abbie Jeffs, Principal Consultant, Straight Talk Pty Ltd (plus Rosie Turner to take notes)
- > Marina Chung, Partner (Urban Design), DEM
- > Gordon Kirkby, Partner, JBA Urban Planning Consultants

Agenda/Running Order

Time	Activity	Responsibility
6:00PM	Arrival of PW, CG, JW, AJ, MP and GK	All
From 6:15PM	Arrival of community delegates	N/A
6:30PM	Official start time	N/A
6:40PM	Actual start time <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AJ to call to order and declare meeting open• AJ to explain format and protocols of the meeting• AJ to introduce PW and JP• AJ to invite PW to address the meeting	AJ
6:50PM	PW to provide brief summary of: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Background• Context• Amendment	PW
7:00PM	AJ to invite questions and direct same to PW or MC as appropriate	AJ
7:45PM	AJ to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• invite final questions• commence recap of discussion	AJ
7:55PM	AJ to call meeting to a close	AJ

Community Response – Pre-Meeting

Before the Community Meeting, three (3) responses were received to the emails, letters and advertisements issued by UTS.

Community Response – In-Meeting

14 members of the local community (including staff, UTS alumni and local residents) attended the meeting.

During the Community Meeting participants sought clarity on a few issues and offered various comments. These were recorded by Straight Talk (independent facilitators) and accompany this report (as a separate attachment).

Community Response – Post-Meeting/Post-Exhibition

After the Community Meeting and subsequent Exhibition, UTS received feedback in the form of:

- > One form response; and
- > One letter.

All feedback is provided (as a separate attachment).

Attachments

Copies of:

1. Email to former CRG members (page 5)
2. List of former CRG members (page 6)
3. Letter to local residents (page 7)
4. Flyer (separate attachment)
5. Feedback form (separate attachment)
6. Exhibition materials (separate attachment)
7. Advertisement (page 8)
8. Community Meeting Report by Straight Talk (separate attachment)
9. Community feedback – emails, forms and letters (separate attachment)

1. Email to Former CRG Members

Dear Mr NAME,

UTS is proposing an amendment to the Kuring-gai Campus Concept Plan approved by the NSW Minister for Planning in June 2008. The amendment, if approved by Minister Keneally, will ensure the retention of the campus gymnasium – a popular community amenity. The proposed amendment is one many in the UTS Kuring-gai Community Reference Group advocated for and we are pleased to be able to accommodate it.

On Monday, 30 November 2009, UTS will hold a public meeting to explain the proposed changes, listen to your views and answer your questions. The meeting will be advertised in the *North Shore Times* tomorrow and Friday. However, given your input to the community consultation process in 2007, I thought it important to extend to you a personal invitation.

Where: UTS Kuring-gai Campus (North Shore Conference Centre)
When: 6:30pm to 8:00pm
Parking: Available on campus

For your convenience, information regarding the amendment is also available on the [Kuring-gai Update](#) page of the UTS website and the amended concept plan will be on exhibition at Kuring-gai Campus from Monday, 30 November to Monday, 7 December.

I do hope to see you there – if you are unable to attend the public meeting you can submit your [feedback](#) about the proposed amendment online until 5:00pm Monday, 7 December 2009.

Yours sincerely

Patrick Woods
Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Resources

University of Technology, Sydney

2. List of Former CRG Members

Name	Group
Mr Jim McCredie	Chatswood West Ward Progress Association
Dr Zeny Edwards	Deputy President National Trust of Australia (NSW)
Mr Matthew Tucker	Film Australia
Mr Frank Walker	Guardians of Lane Cove National Park and Blue Gum Valley Preservation Movement
Mrs Margaret Booth	Kissing Point Progress Association
Mr Antony Fabbro	Kur-ring-gai Council –Manager, Urban Planning
Councilor Maureen Shelly	Kur-ring-Gai Council (Roseville Ward)
Councilor Jennifer Anderson	Kur-ring-Gai Council (Roseville Ward)
Mr Peter Vickers	Lindfield Chamber of Commerce
Mr Ian de Vulder	Local Resident
Ms Suzanne Gemmell	Local Resident
Mr Fay Pettit	Local Resident
Mr Andrew Hogg	Local Resident
Ms Marianne Kopeinig	Local Resident
Mr David Close	Local Resident
Mr Craig Oliver	Acting Principal – Lindfield Public School
Mr Steve Scott	Shorelink Bus Group
Mr Robert Pallin	STEP community group
Mr John Burke	STEP community group
Ms Tracy Taylor	Deputy Dean, Faculty of Business
Mr John Daly	Dean, Faculty of Nursing, Midwifery and Health
Mr Gerard Goodwin-Moore	UTS Nursing Faculty
Mr David Howard	Ku-ring-gai and District Soccer Association (KDSA)
Mr Ray Rice	Lindfield District Cricket Club

3. Letter to Local Residents

25 November 2009

Dear Neighbour,

The University of Technology has been proud to be part of the Kuring-gai community for the past 40 years, but as previously communicated, the needs of our students have changed significantly in that time.

Much to our regret, fewer and fewer students are choosing to study at our Kuring-gai Campus. Students tell us that they prefer the University's City Campus because it is more conveniently located relative to their homes and part-time jobs, is better for night-time study, offers greater accommodation options, and has a broader range of entertainment opportunities.

To fulfill our goal of providing our students with the best possible teaching, learning and research experiences, and thus help provide well-trained teachers and nurses for our schools and hospitals, UTS began to reassess the role of its Kuring-gai Campus in 2003.

You will no doubt be aware that UTS sought rezoning approval from the NSW Minister for Planning in 2007, and was granted conditional approval in June 2008.

Today, UTS is proposing an amendment to its Kuring-gai Campus Concept Plan. The amendment, if approved by Minister Keneally, will ensure the retention of the campus gymnasium – a popular community amenity. The proposed amendment is one many neighbours advocated for and we are pleased to be able to accommodate it.

On Monday, 30 November 2009, UTS will hold a public meeting to explain the proposed changes, listen to your views and answer your questions. The meeting will be advertised in the *North Shore Times* today and Friday. All are welcome.

Where: UTS Kuring-gai Campus (North Shore Conference Centre)
When: 6:30pm to 8:00pm
Parking: Available on campus

For your convenience, information regarding the amendment is also available on the UTS website (<http://www.uts.edu.au/about/executive/kuringgai/index.html>) and the amended concept plan will be on exhibition at Kuring-gai Campus from next Monday through to Monday, 7 December.

If you are unable to attend the public meeting you can submit your [feedback](#) about the proposed amendment online until 5:00pm Monday, 7 December 2009.

Yours sincerely

Patrick Woods
Deputy Vice Chancellor and Vice President (Resources)

7. Advertisement



→ COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT
PROPOSAL TO RETAIN A POPULAR COMMUNITY AMENITY

The University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) is proposing an amendment to its Kuring-gai Campus Concept Plan. The amendment, if approved by the NSW Minister for Planning, will ensure the retention of the campus gymnasium – a popular amenity.

On Monday, 30 November, UTS will host a Community Meeting at its Kuring-gai Campus to explain the proposed changes, listen to your views and answer your questions. All are welcome.

UTS GYMNASIUM COMMUNITY MEETING
When: Monday, 30 November
What time: 6:30pm – 8:00pm
Where: UTS Kuring-gai Campus
(North Shore Conference Centre)

Can't make the meeting?
Visit www.uts.edu.au/about/executive/kuringgai to access information about the proposed amendment and provide your feedback online.

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