Dear Minister,

**Subject**: Cammeraygal High Senior Campus

I am writing to add my voice to many others in the Cammeraygal community to implore the Department to:

**EITHER** actively engage on the proposal put forward by the Cammeraygal P&C, fully supported by North Sydney Council, to increase active recreational space at the Cammeraygal West Street senior campus;

**OR** put forward an alternative proposal that ensures our children aren’t structurally restricted from engaging in active play on school grounds during their senior school years.

Many submissions have already been made to your Department outlining the issues and proposing an alternative. The lack of response from your Department to submissions made by the Cammeraygal community compels me to call for urgent attention on this matter.

It is my belief that the department is being myopic, prioritising budget considerations rather than looking into the future to deliver a senior campus that meets both the academic and physical wellbeing needs of our children.

To recap, the key issues are:

* Current plans for repurposing the West Street site include the construction of a hall that will be equipped for use as a basketball court when not required as a hall. This will be accommodated in a new single-story building elevated above the current ground level (with complicated disabled and emergency access). This will be built on current open space and will have a sloped roof. This is the only active recreational space for a campus with a planned capacity of 600 students. The total accessible outdoor area is also inadequate, at less than 4m2 per student.
* Population growth in the school’s catchment area is likely to see enrolments exceed those currently planned. 2018 enrolments at the junior campus will exceed the stated capacity of that site by around 50 children, only three years after the school opened. It is an ominous sign that Cammeraygal’s feeder primary schools have grown by one third over the last three years.
* The submission from the Cammeraygal community is a revised design of the new hall structure, switching the sloped roof to a flat roof providing a rooftop active recreational space, with a main entry at ground level to facilitate easy disabled and emergency access into the hall directly from the carpark. This adds 1000m2 of recreational space which could be configured in a variety of ways to cater to the needs of the diverse student body. The flat roof structure supports further expansion of the space, for example the addition of a new level of classrooms, if student enrolments exceed current planning estimates. In addition, through small alterations to the hall’s footprint an additional active recreational space can be accommodated at ground level adjacent to the car park.

As a concerned member of the Cammeraygal community **I request the following from your Department**:

* Provide an opportunity for the community to have immediate discussions with you on alternatives to the current plan, with the objective to increase active recreational space and future proof the school given likely enrolment growth.
* Decouple the DA for the hall construction from the DA for the remainder of the project so that the timeline for the majority of the refurbishment work is not unduly delayed while discussions on the hall design take place.

As a parent looking at the often devastating life-long impact of sedentary lifestyles I am compelled to act to ensure the current and future students of Cammeraygal have access to facilities at school that ensure the best possible chance of a healthy, active life. The current provision of active recreational facilities falls far short of the needs of a 600+ strong senior school community.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this request.

Yours sincerely