

15 June 2020

The Hon. Sarah Mitchell, MLC  
Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning.  
GPO BOX 5341  
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Minister,

**Re: Dulwich Hill High School of Visual Arts & Design – Sporting Fields**

I writing to you to seek your assistance in addressing community access to the sporting fields at Dulwich Hill High School of Visual Arts & Design (**School**) known as Graham Green (**Graham Green**). The Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs is the registered owner of Graham Green.

In 1993, the former Marrickville Council and the Department of Education (**Department**) worked collaboratively together on the formation of Graham Green. Marrickville Council provided a capital contribution of \$25,000 toward the establishment of Graham Green and supported required road closures. As part of negotiations with Council, the Department agreed Graham Green would be made available to the public for recreational purposes outside of school hours. A condition of the development consent granted by Marrickville Council in April 1993 for Graham Green required Marrickville Council and the Department to enter into a formal agreement in relation to community use, maintenance and public liability.

Electronic records held by Inner West Council (**Council**) indicate that in 2007 Marrickville Council and the Department entered into a licence agreement regarding the community use of Graham Green. In 2017 Inner West Council and the Department entered into a further licence agreement for the community use of Graham Green.

The community has recently raised concerns that the Department intends to place a demountable classroom on Graham Green.

At its Ordinary Meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020, Council resolved to write to you to seek assurance that there will be no change to the existing community access to Graham Green. Council also resolved that if the School is to place a new demountable classroom on Graham Green then we ask that any security arrangements around a new demountable not impede access to Graham Green or the ability of residents to walk through it to access the Dulwich Hill shopping precinct.

Council is currently in the process of discussions with the Property Section of School Infrastructure NSW to negotiate an extension of a license agreement which permits community access to Graham Green outside of School hours. We would request that the resolutions outlined form part of these ongoing discussions and that an extended licence agreement is expedited. Council officers are available to work through any outstanding issues which the school may have with respect to the administration of the license agreement.

On another matter Council wrote to Mr Mark Scott AO, Secretary of the NSW Department of Education on 27 May 2020 concerning public access to a public walkway adjacent to Graham Green. After further investigation into the matter there has been a misunderstanding with the information provided to Council with the issue being access to Graham Green rather than the walkway. The access issue has been resolved.

I note the Department of Education's public commitment to the Share Our Spaces Program and hope that this issue can be resolved in a satisfactory manner to all interested parties.

I look forward to a positive response on this issue.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Deegan  
**Chief Executive Officer**

**CC** Mr Mark Scott AO  
Secretary of the NSW Department of Education  
Email: [secretary@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:secretary@det.nsw.edu.au)