



**Mr Kevin Conolly MP**  
Parliamentary Secretary for Education

Mr Michael Deegan  
Chief Executive Officer  
Inner West Council  
PO Box 14  
PETERSHAM NSW 2049

RML20/2777  
DGL20/377

c/- [danielle.missos@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:danielle.missos@innerwest.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr Deegan

I write in response to your correspondence of 15 June 2020, to the Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC, Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning and the Secretary of the Department of Education, regarding the sporting fields at Dulwich Hill High School of Visual Arts and Design, known as Graham Green. The Minister has asked me to respond on her behalf.

I have sought clarification and advice from the Department on this matter and I am advised of the following.

The Department is currently in discussions with Council about the licence arrangements and will provide advice to Council about the type of agreement that would allow acceptable community use, while maintaining Graham Green in a safe state for school use.

Unfortunately, the Department has had to temporarily close Graham Green to the public as a result of rubbish, including broken glass and knives being found on the site, along with vandalism and turf damage. These incidents have made the area unavailable for school use until these issues are resolved and the area made safe for students.


In relation to the thoroughfare between Charlecot and Fairfowl Streets, which passes Barnsbury Grove on the south-eastern side of the school, as the Department dedicated this strip of land to Council, the Department expects it will remain open to the public. There is a second thoroughfare between Charlecot and Fairfowl Streets that runs through the school grounds and which is not part of the licence agreement. The pathway is being kept closed to the public while considerations are given to the future of community use of the site.

The Department is committed to working with external partners, such as Council, to increase and improve community access to facilities where possible. The Department appreciates the contribution that Council has made to Graham Green through its long partnership with the Department.

In terms of any fencing placed around the demountable classroom proposed for the school, this will not impede activities on Graham Green.

Thank you for your writing to the Minister and the Secretary on this important issue.

Yours sincerely



**Kevin Conolly MP**  
Parliamentary Secretary for Education  
6 July 2020