

**Submission
No 67
Item C, Tab 8**

**INQUIRY INTO ENROLMENT CAPACITY IN INNER CITY
PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

Name: NSW Department of Education

Date received: 27 September 2016



Ms Monica Barone
Chief Executive Officer
City of Sydney
GPO Box 1591
SYDNEY NSW 2001

DGS15/1056

Dear Ms Barone

I regret to advise that the Department of Education and Communities has made a decision to not proceed with relocating Ultimo Public School to the City of Sydney owned site on the corner of Wattle, Jones and Fig Street.

The Department's decision has been made following a further site remediation report, which indicates significantly higher decontamination costs than anticipated.

As previously advised, the Department's approach to education provision is always focused on the health and wellbeing of its staff and students. For this reason, the Department will always err on the side of caution when faced with a contaminated site.

Following advice from the Department's project manager and engineering consultants, the Department is of the view that due to the serious soil and water contamination on the site the only way to guarantee the safety of the future school's staff, students and visitors is by fully remediating the site. The Department has advice that the costs associated with full remediation of the site could be as high as \$53 million, which will make the relocation proposal unviable.

The Department is committed to meeting the current and forecast demand for public school places in the Ultimo/Pymont area and across the inner Sydney city primary school network through the provision of new, permanent school facilities. In all of these instances, the Department will be open to working with Council to include, wherever possible and practical, ancillary community services such as early childhood and after school care.

Thank you for your continued support of public education and we look forward to working with you on a number of key education projects across the City of Sydney.

Yours sincerely

Tony McCabe
R/Executive Director, Asset Management

12 June 2015