

**Inquiry into the development of the Transport Oriented Development Program –  
Post Hearing Responses – Transcript  
24 July 2024**

**QUESTION 1, PAGE 16**

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** I might go now to Education. What advice did Education provide Planning with respect to the identification of the sites when it came to school capacity?

**LISA HARRINGTON:** We did have engagement with Planning ahead of the announcement for the TODs. A lot of the work that we're doing already as part of our enrolment growth audit and growth area schools plan is very similar in terms of looking at the growth areas and making sure that we've got as granular detail as possible so that we can meet enrolment demand. A lot of the conversations we were having ahead of the announcement were just around the growth areas, the work that we've got underway to understand where there's need so that we can make sure that's aligning with Planning's work.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** We've seen an analysis of the 305 sites that was undertaken by Transport for NSW. Was Education similarly given a list of the 305 sites and asked for school capacity within those areas?

**LISA HARRINGTON:** I might have to take that on notice in terms of that list but we certainly had engagement with Planning ahead of the announcement to make sure we were feeding in our analysis of where there's demand. I can come back to you on the list.

**ANSWER**

The Department of Education provided service planning advice to the Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure and Infrastructure NSW in relation to the TOD locations.

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**QUESTION 2, PAGES 17, 18**

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** Further to that point, with respect to the EIE for Kellyville and Bella Vista, it's indicated that five new primary and high schools are in planning for Tallawong and Box Hill, which include a primary school in Box Hill, a high school in Box Hill, a primary school in Gables, a primary school in Tallawong and a high school in Schofields and Tallawong. None of these would fall into the catchment of any of the areas within either Kellyville, Bella Vista, Stanhope Gardens or Glenwood, would they?

**LISA HARRINGTON:** Those projects that you announced are to deal with demand that we're already seeing. Obviously, the TOD changes will change enrolment projections as well. Those projects are going to deal with and provide capacity that we have already forecast. That's why it's important for us to keep close to Planning in these TOD changes so that we can be aware of what extra capacity is coming and at what time so that we can provide for that.

**The Hon. SCOTT FARLOW:** What is the plan, then, for school capacity in Stanhope Gardens, Glenwood, Kellyville and Bella Vista?

**LISA HARRINGTON:** I can provide more specific detail on that. As I mentioned, the north-west is the area we're probably watching the most closely because of the demand in that area and because it is growing far faster than was originally projected. The service planning team in the Department of Education is very focused on that area. As I mentioned, because of that fast growth that exceeded expectations, we're very conscious that we need to be making sure that we have that granular detail. We can't just rely on the common planning assumptions. We have to have as many data sources as we can. We have to have close relationships with councils, developers and the community to understand if that's coming on faster than expected.

**ANSWER**

The Department of Education continues to closely monitor the need of high-growth areas, including those located across the North-West. This includes ensuring a comprehensive understanding future need brought about by TOD changes and proposed dwellings.

In addition, projects are underway to improve enrolment capacity across North-West Sydney, funded by the NSW Government's record \$3.6 billion budget allocation for new and upgraded schools in Western Sydney.

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**QUESTION 3, PAGES 19**

**The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO:** On schools, in relation to Macquarie Park, what's the estimation for the need for schools and how will that be addressed?

**LISA HARRINGTON:** Macquarie Park is an area that we are looking at very closely. We are seeing a lot of demand in that area. There are various investments already. I can come back to you on those specific ones. In terms of our areas that we are focusing on closely, that is definitely one.

**The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO:** We know that there are some schools in the works, but what is the plan for the next phase of developing a plan to deliver schools? Obviously, there will be a lot more people in the area.

**LISA HARRINGTON:** At the moment we are working on one of our election commitments, which is the growth area schools plan. As part of that plan, we will be providing more detail on how we are making sure that we—first of all, the areas that we are identifying as those growth areas and how we are going to be responding. That will be in the coming months. I can't give you a time frame, but we are working on that now.

**The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO:** Before the end of the year?

**LISA HARRINGTON:** I'm not sure that I can say before the end of the year, but in the coming months. We are working on it now. I can't give you a sense of exactly when that will be released, but it will be within the coming year. I would say that.

**The Hon. JACQUI MUNRO:** So 12 months?

**LISA HARRINGTON:** Yes, but it might be sooner than that. It hasn't been decided. The department is working on that closely at the moment. We haven't yet worked out with the Government when that will be released, but the department will be finishing that work by the end of the year.

**ANSWER**

Several public schools are being planned for Macquarie Park. Updates will be provided as these projects progress through planning, including the Macquarie Park Education Campus and the new primary school at Midtown, Macquarie Park. Capacity upgrades have also been recently delivered at Ryde Secondary College.