

Planning for non government schools

STRATEGIC JUSTIFICATION FOR NON GOVERNMENT SCHOOL SITES

MARCH 2013

This information sheet provides advice on how to demonstrate the strategic justification for a non government school site in a Precinct Structure Plan.

SHOWING NON GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS IN PRECINCT STRUCTURE PLANS

Sites for non government schools are shown in Precinct Structure Plans where a clear case is made for the need for such a school and where there is a demonstrated commitment to establish a non government school on the site. This process is open to all non government school providers.

Provision rates for non government schools are subject to strategic justification by school providers. The relevant non government school provider may be required to respond to challenges to the proposed provision rate and land allocation.

The Precinct Structure Plan's background report should include details of the strategic justification for the provision of a non government school site and indicate which non government school provider has provided the strategic justification.

INFORMATION TO BE SUPPLIED BY NON GOVERNMENT SCHOOL PROVIDERS

The information required to justify the need for a school site will vary from site to site, but will generally include the following information (where available):

School details

- Type of school – e.g. primary, secondary, P-12, boys, girls, co educational, specific purpose, specialist, other
- Enrolment estimates and assumptions, including peak capacity and Long Term Enrolment (LTE) of the school
- Religious denomination or other affiliation
- Indication of whether the school is a campus of, or has links to, an existing school
- Any specialist education or other programs to be offered
- Options for shared and community use of school facilities

Preferred site

- Proposed site area
(Note: As a general approach, non government school sites should not exceed the size of an equivalent government school i.e. 3.5 ha - primary school, 8.4 ha - secondary school, and 11.9 ha - P-12 school.)
- Proposed location and/or desired site characteristics

Demonstration of demand

- Analysis of demographic trends and school-aged children in the catchment district
- Anticipated participation rate/Pupil Per Dwelling/ percentage of school-aged population likely to seek enrolment
- A list of community and stakeholder consultation to date
- Details of any interest shown by the community for the proposed school
- Testimonials of support from community members, community organisations, churches or religious affiliations

Analysis of impact on existing schools

- Indicative catchment area of the proposed school (including physical features acting as a catchment boundary)
- Details of other schools in the region (including religious affiliation, location and catchment area)
- Location of any 'feeder' schools
- Summary of the current schools and year levels of identified prospective students

Demonstration of commitment to establish the school

- Governing body, Directors or board minutes indicating a commitment to the school development
- Draft school business plan
- Likely milestones in the staging/development/construction of the school
- Indicative opening year/proposed date of commencement
- Parent information/publication/advertisement for the establishment of a school

INFORMATION TO BE SUPPLIED BY GROWTH AREAS AUTHORITY

The GAA can provide estimated projections of residential development and/or the number of dwellings anticipated in the growth corridor / precinct where a non government school is considering establishing.

CONTACT THE GROWTH AREAS AUTHORITY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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