



14 December 2020

James Paull
Senior Strategic Planner
Victorian Planning Authority
Level 35, 35 Collins Street,
Melbourne 3000

Dear James,

SUBMISSION ON BEHALF OF AITKEN COLLEGE, REGARDING THE CRAIGIEBURN WEST PRECINCT STRUCTURE PLAN

I write on behalf of *Aitken College*, which is independent, co-educational Primary and Secondary School at 1010 Mickleham Road, Greenvale. This submission is made in response to the public consultation of the proposed Craigieburn West Precinct Structure Plan (PSP) and associated draft amendment to the Hume Planning Scheme.

Although Aitken College generally welcomes housing, business, and community growth in the area, we are concerned that higher order road infrastructure is not in place to accommodate this growth. In particular, we are concerned that the PSP is being progressed in the absence of any certainty regarding the duplication and upgrade of Mickleham Road, which we know to be currently operating at or above capacity during peak times.

1 Background – Aitken College

Aitken College is an independent (non-government) school which provides education for children from Prep through to Year 12. Aitken College is situated on, and accessed from Mickleham Road, and is located approximately 3.2km south of the Craigieburn West PSP Area. As a full service Primary and Secondary school, we provide a critical community service, which we believe makes a valuable contribution to the liveability and quality of life in the area.

In the coming years, we plan to renovate and expand our existing buildings and offer increased enrolment numbers in what is clearly an important metropolitan growth region. In order to facilitate current and future operations of the college, a safe and efficient Mickleham Road is critically important.

Specifically, we have developed a master plan (with assistance from Hayball Architects, GTA Consultants and Human Habitats) for the expansion of services on the site. The school has been in discussions with the City of Hume and other authorities in relation to the implementation of this master plan which will (among other things):

- Enable the provision of additional early years educational services
- Improve on site facilities for existing students
- Allow the adaption of buildings on the site to accommodate new and modern ways of learning

Pursuant to the terms of our planning permit, Aitken College is currently permitted a maximum of 1500 enrolments. One of the primary reasons behind the limitation on student numbers (imposed by the Hume City Council) is to prevent further vehicle movements to and from Mickleham Road, especially during peak times.

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2 Submission

It is of great concern to the College that the Craigieburn West PSP is proceeding at pace, despite there being no certainty as to the funding or delivery of upgrades to Mickleham Road. Despite local infrastructure being funded through an Infrastructure Contributions Plan, there seems to be no commitment from the Department of Transport to programme and deliver the much-needed upgrades to Mickleham Road in advance of the proposed Precinct Structure Plan. As discussed previously, Aitken College relies on Mickleham Road as its primary access, and already experiences the impacts of the road operating beyond its capacity.

Within the Craigieburn West PSP Existing Conditions Assessment by One Mile Grid (18th February 2020) reference to the future upgrade of Mickleham Road is limited to the following statement:

Mickleham Road is planned as an ultimate six-lane arterial road which will be progressively upgraded as development in Melbourne's northern growth corridor proceeds.

Similar statements can be found in the Transport Impact Assessment, also by One Mile Grid (9 November 2020), where it is accepted that Mickleham Road provides a significant role in servicing the PSP area. Reference is made to "slated" upgrades, including an interim duplication (two lanes in each direction) and ultimate upgrade (3 lanes in each direction).

As it appears to be accepted within these background documents that these upgrades will occur, we request that confirmation is provided from the Department of Transport, in order to give the community certainty regarding the timing and funding of this infrastructure. Until such time as this has been confirmed, we submit that the PSP should either be deferred, or progressed on the basis of detailed scenario modelling which considers only those infrastructure items which are appropriately committed.

On the basis of this submission, regrettably, we wish to formally object to the Amendment in its current form and request that these matters are substantively addressed prior to the PSP progressing. Please note that this objection should not be a surprise to any party as we have been very vocal about this issue over the last few years.

We reserve the right to make further statements in respect of the Amendment, and we sincerely hope that our objections can be resolved. Should you have any queries or require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned on 03 9333 9100 or by email to jcrisara@aitkencollege.edu.au.

Yours sincerely,



Josie Crisara
Principal