



# Department of Education

Schools and Regional Services

2 Treasury Place  
East Melbourne Victoria 3002  
Telephone: 03 9637 2000  
DX210083

COR23127787

Justin O'Meara  
Executive Director  
Metropolitan Melbourne  
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr O'Meara

**RE: Response to Public Consultation on the Officer South Employment Precinct Structure Plan (PSP), Supplementary Infrastructure Contributions Plan (ICP) and Draft Amendment to the Cardinia Planning Scheme**

Thank you for your correspondence of 25 September 2023 providing the Department of Education (DE) with the opportunity to comment on the Officer South Employment Precinct Structure Plan (PSP), Supplementary Infrastructure Contributions Plan (ICP) and accompanying draft amendment to the Cardinia Planning Scheme.

DE notes that the PSP allocates land for one (1) proposed government primary school location, referred to by the department as 'Greenspine Proposed P6' (interim name).

The number of proposed government school sites in the PSP is considered to be appropriate, with this assessment based on projected development within the PSP area of approximately 1,600 new homes to accommodate an estimated residential population of around 5,000 residents. It must be noted that this advice may change if the dwelling and/or population forecasts were to change significantly.

DE notes that it has provided extensive informal input and advice to inform the development of this precinct structure plan. Additionally, DE has provided written comments to the Victorian Planning Authority (VPA) dated 8 August 2022, as part of the Agency Validation stage of the precinct structure planning process. DE acknowledges that some of the issues raised have been subsequently addressed through VPA and DE correspondence during the Public Consultation stage, dated 19 October 2023. However, there are still remaining issues, which are detailed in the **Appendix** to this letter.

In addition, DE has been advised by VPA that the ultimate location of the proposed government school site was selected to avoid significant impacts on DE in terms of the cost of building, occupational health and safety considerations, and the impact on emergency management and accessibility. DE seeks written confirmation or evidence that the proposed government school site is not impacted by potential hazards, such as slope, extra high transmission lines and high-pressure gas pipelines, exposure to transport pollutants or risk of exposure to toxic chemicals due to industrial fires.

DE appreciates the opportunity to continue working with the VPA on resolving all items raised in the **Appendix** and if relevant, the department will make a supplementary submission prior to VPA referring any remaining unresolved issues to the VPA Standing Advisory Committee to confirm which, if any, of the above issues the department considers to have been subsequently resolved.

If you would like to discuss the issues outlined in this correspondence further, you may contact Katholiki Giordamnis, Senior Planner, Infrastructure and Planning Branch, Department of Education on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

*Erin Giles*

Erin Giles  
Director  
Infrastructure and Planning Branch  
School Provision and Establishment Division

31/10/2023

*Enclosed: Appendix*

*Cc: Sarah Doring, Strategic Planning Manager, [Sarah.doring@vpa.vic.gov.au](mailto:Sarah.doring@vpa.vic.gov.au)*

## APPENDIX

Upon reviewing the *Officer South Employment Precinct Structure Plan – Draft for Public Consultation, September 2023*, DE submits the following comments and requests for VPA's consideration and action.

1. **Requirement 6 (p.23)** – content on 'pedestrian crossing linking the proposed government school site directly with the community facility to the satisfaction of the Department of Education' has not been incorporated as previously agreed by both DE (then Department of Education and Training) & VPA at Agency Validation stage.

DE firmly believes that amending this Requirement will enhance the certainty that the establishment of a direct connection between the school entry and the community facility entry will be carried out during the master planning stage.

2. **Princes Freeway pedestrian underpass** – DE raised that the Princes Freeway pedestrian underpass at Lower Gum Scrub Creek will link the new residential area to the developed area of Officer and needs to be upgraded to ensure that residents in Officer South Employment PSP can safely walk or cycle to a government secondary school in Officer. Whilst DE understands that the underpass is outside of the PSP boundary and thus cannot be funded by the ICP, it still considers that a good quality freeway underpass for pedestrians and cyclists at Officer South Road would best meet the needs of DE and the community in terms of the functional requirement for walking / cycling access from the Officer South Employment PSP residential areas to Officer Secondary College and to Kurrum Primary School (opened this year on Rix Road).

DE would appreciate that the VPA takes its position into consideration when collaborating with the relevant planning authorities (Council, and the Department of Transport and Planning) to address this access issue, supporting both the existing and incoming community.