

Hon Matthew Swinbourn MLC
Chair, Environment and Public Affairs Committee
Parliament House
2 Harvest Terrace
West Perth WA 6005

Dear Chair, *Matthew*

Re: Petition 95 – International School of Western Australia

The International School of Western Australia (ISWA) currently leases the City Beach High School site from the state government. The decision to move this school to the Doubleview Primary School site was made in the context of the previous Government's Western Suburbs Schooling Strategy, which would have seen the re-opening of City Beach High School for public students. When the decision to build Inner City College on the Kitchener Park site instead of re-opening City Beach High School was made, the need to move ISWA disappeared.

Indeed, after this decision was made, Doubleview residents were advised by other Ministers that there was no need for further concern about ISWA moving, as the decision to re-open City Beach High School has been reversed.

Consequently, the justification for going ahead with this plan as the only remaining plank from the previous government's strategy seems shaky at best. This is especially so given that the recent decisions around school sites will leave the Department with at least one empty education site at City Beach High School. While an alternative tenant has been found for Tuart College, which was also originally slated to be left empty – this tenant is being described as both a 'foundation' and a 'temporary' tenant. It is possible that we will have two empty school sites, yet will have a public and private school sharing a 6 Ha site that until recently, also functioned as public open space in a suburb notably deprived of such open space.

The Minister has repeatedly said that the facilities provided at the Doubleview Primary School site are being provided for 350 students on a like-for-like basis. This has caused an ongoing confusion, as in 2014, ISWA undertook a development program at the City Beach High School site with the explicit aim of preparing for increased future enrolment to a maximum of 600 students.

The Government has not committed to requiring the International School to keep to 350 students or lower, and has only said that any request to raise the number of private school students on the site will be subject to another development application approval and traffic management study.

This is also concerning as there were a number of issues with the previous traffic management plans and development application that required multiple attempts on the behalf of the proponent to provide the correct information to the JDAP. I have since been advised that the mapping of the trees remained incorrect and that large mature tuarts have been removed.

With projections that the population of Doubleview Primary School is likely to exceed capacity within the decade and that nearby Scarborough Primary will be over capacity within four years, the community is understandably very concerned that the Government has not ruled out supporting ISWA's growth plans, possibly leading to more than 1,000 students on the Doubleview Primary School site, with a number of those students being high school-age students.

The community has advised me that they have had a legal opinion regarding the validity of the government providing capital expenditure for a private school. I believe that more detail will be provided in the principal petitioner's submission.

The Heads of Agreement nominated a sunset clause date of 31 December 2017 by which works must be started and as part of the clause clarified that the parties could negotiate a further extension – or the agreement could be terminated by either party and the lease agreement reverted to the current agreement through to 2027 at City Beach High School. This sunset clause date was extended to 31 August 2018 and was once again not met.

I have asked multiple Parliamentary questions regarding this matter, and the Minister has provided the response that there is a contract in place obliging the Government to continue on this path. It is unclear if this is a contract in addition to the Heads of Agreement and the Lease Agreement. If there is no additional contract, it would seem that the Government has had multiple legal opportunities to back out of this agreement, yet has held fast to this course of action.

The decision to continue down this path without the supporting structure of the previous Western Suburbs School strategy makes very little sense.

This is yet another example of poor decision-making and appalling lack of community consultation by the Department of Education. The need for this move should have been reassessed when the decision not to re-open City Beach High School was made.

I encourage the Environment and Public Affairs Committee to review the decision-making process, the outcomes for our increasingly crowded public schools and the impact on public trust in the ability of the Department and Minister to make sensible, reasoned and informed decisions.

Yours sincerely,



Hon Alison Xamon MLC
Member for North Metropolitan

21 December 2018