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PID17579 / BH

The Secretary
Public Works Committee
Parliament House
HOBART TAS 7000

Via email: scott.hennessy@parliament.tas.gov.au

Dear Secretary,

**Cambridge Primary School Major Redevelopment
Submission to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works**

I provide this submission in support of the proposed Cambridge Primary School Major Redevelopment.

Clarence City Council has worked closely with Cambridge Primary School (**the school**) and the Department for Education, Children and Young People (**DECYP**) over several years on the above project. This is necessitated by the school sharing a common border with the council-owned Cambridge Memorial Oval. The school's road access, car park, sports oval and a portion of its playground are all located on the council-owned land and are maintained by council for the benefit of the school community.

The Cambridge Primary School Major Redevelopment project has provided a valuable opportunity for all parties to partner with each other to further integrate the school into the broader Cambridge and Clarence communities. The school redevelopment, together with the proposed concurrent upgrades by council to facilities at Cambridge Memorial Oval, will achieve this through the co-funding and co-development of new infrastructure that will collectively benefit the entire community, while also delivering a state-of-the-art educational facility in Cambridge.

The school redevelopment project aligns closely with council's objective to support the continued growth of the Cambridge area and provide well planned and liveable communities in our city. It will improve the overall amenity and connectedness of Cambridge and increase its appeal to young families and couples. It will also help facilitate continued sustainable development in both Clarence and Greater Hobart.

Clarence City Council fully supports the school redevelopment project and is working closely with DECYP and the school to deliver it.

The following additional information about council's role and interest in the project is provided for the information of the committee.

Draft Cambridge Oval Master Plan

As the committee is aware, the Cambridge Primary School Major Redevelopment is to be delivered in two stages:

- Stage 1, which will be built within the primary school land and includes various upgrades and additions to the school buildings and landscaping; and
- Stage 2, which proposes the following works on the council-owned Cambridge Memorial Oval land:
 - new school gymnasium and associated amenities
 - new outdoor hardcourt
 - additional parking, upgrades, internal roads and a new school drop off and pick up zone; and
 - improved pedestrian access and connectivity.

Concurrently with the development of plans for Stage 2, council has prepared a master plan for the balance of the Cambridge Memorial Oval. The draft Cambridge Oval Master Plan (**the master plan**) is provided to the committee as **Attachment 1**.

The master plan provides for new and upgraded sport and recreation facilities on the oval. The proposed new facilities are in addition to the Stage 2 elements of the school redevelopment. The master plan has been developed to support Stage 2, and vice versa.

The additional facilities proposed in the master plan for the balance of the Cambridge Memorial Oval include a new community sports pavilion, the reconfiguration of and upgrades to the oval surface and adjacent soccer oval to collectively accommodate two full-sized soccer pitches, new car parking and pedestrian pathways, and the embellishment of green and open space across the precinct.

The master plan is the ultimate outcome of close collaboration between Council, DECYP, the school and the wider school community over several years. I commend the leadership of the school and DECYP for their collaborative approach to working with Council to develop the master plan.

The proposed new gymnasium and outdoor hardcourt are intended to be available for community use outside school hours and will help address a significant shortfall in the supply of indoor and

outdoor facilities for court-based sports in Clarence (currently seven basketball and netball courts, growing to eight in 2042). Collectively, the Stage 2 works and the further works envisaged in the master plan will result in a modern and vibrant recreation and sporting precinct in Cambridge with benefits that extend well beyond the primary school.

Consultation for the master plan was launched concurrently with DECYP's consultation for the school redevelopment in March 2023. Overall, community feedback on the master plan has been positive. Council's project team is currently reviewing the consultation outcomes and working with DECYP to incorporate community feedback into a revised master plan. This is expected to be completed in the coming few months.

Matters still to be resolved

Naturally, the co-planning, design, funding and construction of shared facilities using public funds presents various complexities. Both Council and DECYP acknowledge that there are still matters to be resolved before Stage 2 of the school redevelopment can proceed.

I understand \$7.1m has been allocated to fund the Stage 2 elements of the school redevelopment. While it is not (and has never been) intended that these funds will directly contribute to other works proposed in the master plan, the Stage 2 works will require, among other things, the demolition of an existing community sports pavilion and amenities block to accommodate the new gymnasium, as well as works to reconfigure the oval boundaries and surface.

Both DECYP and Council acknowledge this community infrastructure needs to be replaced and will partner together to achieve this. However, the amount to be contributed by Council, other sources of potential funding, and particulars of which components of Stage 2 are to be built respectively by Council and the DECYP are still to be finally determined. Other outstanding issues include the timing of the works for Stage 2 and ownership and use arrangements for the proposed gymnasium and hardcourt.

Despite these outstanding matters, I stress that both Council and DECYP are highly motivated to see Stage 2 of the school redevelopment proceed as soon as possible, and are productively and cooperatively working in partnership to achieve this. I am pleased with the progress of ongoing negotiations between Council and DECYP and have full confidence that all issues under negotiation will be agreed and finalised soon.

Conclusion

Overall, the proposed Cambridge Primary School Major Redevelopment will provide significant community benefits, both through providing access to a high-quality education facility for the growing population of Cambridge, and the provision of modern sport and recreation facilities for use by both the school and wider communities.

While acknowledging there are still matters to be finalised, I have no hesitation in relaying Clarence City Council's full support for this exciting and very important project.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ian Nelson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Ian Nelson

Chief Executive Officer

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