

CB4

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING
OFFICE OF SCHOOLS

Submission to Minister

RELEASE OF
COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES POLICY
AND
IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

DOS 09/495

BACKGROUND

In September 2008, the Deputy Director-General, Schools endorsed consultation drafts of a *Community Use of School Facilities Policy* and three *Implementation Procedures* (a set of general procedures, a set relating to children's services and a set relating to development of joint use agreements for school playing fields)

The consultation drafts were placed on a special DET website and stakeholders and interest groups invited to respond by 31 October 2008.

Responses were received from Regional Directors, the Secondary Principals Council, the Primary Principals Association, the Federation of P&C Associations, the Department of Community Services, The Department of Local Government, *Network* (the state's Out of School Hours Care peak group), The Department of Premier and Cabinet, *Community Colleges NSW* (the state's Adult and Community Education providers peak group), the Federation of Community Languages Schools of NSW, the Department of Sport and Recreation, and *Parks and Leisure Australia* (a peak industry body which made representation's to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Sportsground management)

Subsequently, the Director, School and Regional Policy held meetings with *Network* and the Federation of Community Languages Schools. Further consultations with the Secondary Principals Council were conducted on line. On 7 December 2008, the President of the Primary Principals Association wrote raising an issue relating to the differences between proposed hire rates for primary and secondary schools.

On 22 December 2008 the Minister was provided with a Progress Report (TAB A) which, among other things, provided her with advice on how contentious issues arising out of the consultation process had been resolved and how the remaining issues associated with hiring, licence and lease fees were to be resolved.

On 29 January 2009, officers from the Premier's Office, the Office of the Minister for Sport and Recreation and the Office of the Minister for Education and Training were briefed by the Director, School and Regional Policy on the progress of the policy with particular reference to community partnerships for the use of school playing fields.

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On 3 February 2009 at the request of the Director, Regional Asset Services, the Director, School and Regional Policy briefed Regional Asset Managers via videoconference on the outcomes of the consultative process and the role for Asset Management Units envisaged in the new policy and procedures.

On 5 February 2009 the Deputy Director-General, Schools met with the Primary Principals Association and assured them that the issues raised by their President relating to the disparity between hiring rates for primary and secondary schools would be resolved. The Deputy Director-General, Finance and Infrastructure also met with the Primary Principals Association the following day.

On 5 February 2009 the Deputy Director-General, Finance and Infrastructure convened a meeting of his officers and the Director, School and Regional Policy to examine and resolve issues associated with general hire rates for community use of school facilities (including the primary/secondary issue) and also the licence fees associated with community use of school facilities for Children's Services, in particular Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) services.

With the release of the *Building the Education Revolution* Guidelines by the Commonwealth Government, consideration was given to whether conditions for funding under the *Primary Schools for the 21st Century* initiative would have implications for the Department's community use of school facilities policy and implementation procedures. They were found to be consistent and a section was added to the generic implementation procedures.

The Minister's Office has been kept informed by the Director, School and Regional Policy of progress in this matter. Advisers have indicated that they would appreciate the opportunity to view the documents prior to promulgation.

COMMENT

The documents at **TAB B** reflect

- Stakeholder's responses to the consultative drafts
- Feedback from Regional Directors
- Discussions with Regional Asset Managers
- Further consultation with the Secondary Principals Council and the Primary Principals Association
- Further consultation with senior officers from *Network* and discussions with the *Network OOSH Reference Group* on which the Federation of P&C Associations is represented.
- Further consultation with senior officers of Finance and Infrastructure portfolio, including the Deputy Director-General, on matters relating to hiring, licence and lease fees
- Discussions with Ministerial advisers, in particular with regard to joint use of school playing fields and the flexibility required in negotiating fee structures for community based OSHC services.

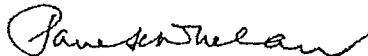
In my view the documents are now ready for submission to the Director-General for approval and to the Minister's Office for consideration prior to promulgation.

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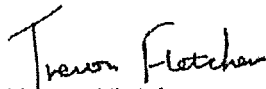
RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the senior officers note that it has been possible during the consultation exercise to meet most of the concerns raised by stakeholders and interest groups including the issue raised by the Primary Principals Association relating to hiring rates following meetings with officers of the Finance and Infrastructure portfolio.
2. That the Director-General approves the *Community Use of School Facilities Policy* and the associated *Implementation Procedures* as attached at **TAB B**.
3. That, following approval by the Director-General, a copy of the documents be made available to the Office of the Minister for feedback and comment as necessary prior to promulgation.
4. That promulgation be scheduled for the beginning of Term 2 2009 with a memorandum alerting principals to the new policy and procedures appearing in the first edition of *InPrincipal* for Term 2.

Submitted for approval.



Paul X Whelan
DIRECTOR, SCHOOL AND REGIONAL POLICY
 31 March 2009



Trevor Fletcher
DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL, SCHOOLS

1-4-09

MT
 You may want to explore
 consequences of change
 in face-to-face mtg.
 3.4.09

MINISTER