



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
OUTCOMES REPORT  
NORTH WEST SUPPORT SCHOOL  
DEVONPORT SITE OPTIONS

*get involved*

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Tasmanian Government has committed \$62.15 million for a major redevelopment of the North West Support School (NWSS), with a new hydrotherapy pool and upgrades to the Burnie campus, and redevelopment of the Devonport campus on a new site in Devonport.

The Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) *Get Involved* consultation process for NWSS Devonport campus site options commenced on Tuesday 11 June 2024 and closed on Friday 5 July 2024. The consultation sought feedback from the school and community on two sites identified as potentially suitable for the redevelopment of NWSS Devonport.

These sites were:

- Site A - 87-121 Watkinson Street Devonport
- Site B - 3-9 Mersey Main Road Spreyton

Through the consultation, feedback was received via an online and hardcopy feedback form, which presented the benefits and challenges of both sites, and respondents were asked to rank the sites in order of preference. The feedback form also contained a free text field for additional comments. Feedback was also able to be submitted via the Department's *Get Involved* email box.

**Across all mediums, the total number of submissions received was 300, with 153 (51 per cent) of these nominating Site A as their first preference, and 147 (49 per cent) nominating Site B as their first preference.**

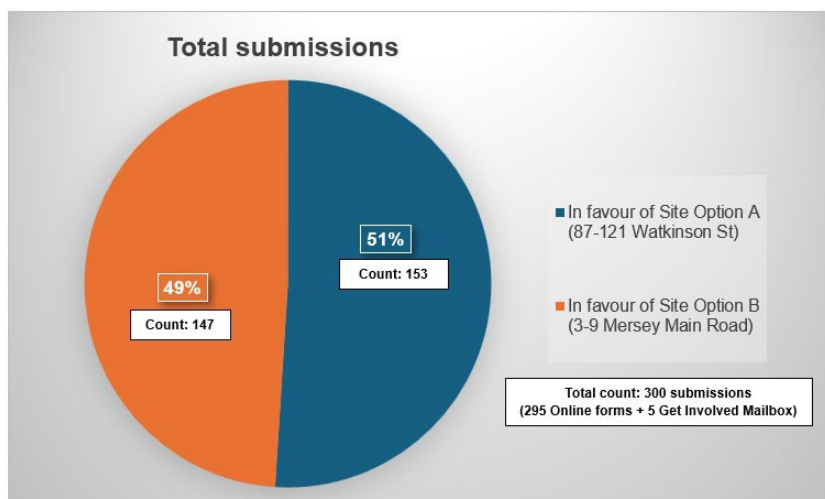
153 of these submissions contained additional feedback. This feedback provides insight into the reasons influencing site preferences. The most frequently cited reasons are summarised below:

### Site A

- Opportunities for student interactions between NWSS and Don College
- Perception that works could commence sooner due to the site being owned by DECYP
- Proximity to existing nature reserve
- Traffic concerns about Site B
- Perception that Site B is too industrial and located in proximity to a waste transfer station
- Concern about loss of netball courts at Site B.

### Site B

- Perceived greater synergies for student/staff interactions between NWSS and Spreyton Primary School
- Closer to current NWSS campus in Middle Road Miandetta
- Perceived to be closer to services and retail
- Concern about loss of amenity and traffic/parking impacts to local residents adjacent to Site A
- Concern about Site A's impact to Don College and loss of outdoor/nature space
- Concern about Site A's proximity to the Don River Railway.



## BACKGROUND

DECYP has committed to undertaking community consultation for all major capital works projects. This is to provide local communities and stakeholders with the opportunity to provide input on capital works projects – ensuring a co-designed approach to delivering facilities that improve outcomes for learners and their parents and carers.

The North West Support School (NWSS) currently operates across two campuses in Burnie and Devonport and provides education and support for students from K-12 who have been diagnosed with a moderate to severe disability.

Significant capital improvements were made to the Burnie campus located in Acton Road in 2017, and while some improvements have been made to the main Devonport campus over time, its site located in Middle Road is heavily constrained. This campus is currently at capacity and does not have contemporary learning facilities for students and staff.

As part of its 2021 election commitments, the Tasmanian Government committed to the redevelopment of NWSS Devonport campus on a new site in Devonport and additional funding for a new hydrotherapy pool and upgrades of the NWSS Burnie campus.

DECYP engaged independent planning consultants to identify potential sites in Devonport and the immediate surrounding areas for a new campus for NWSS Devonport. 14 initial sites were identified, which were assessed by the planning consultants against the site search criteria. Of these 14 sites, two sites identified by the planning consultants were shortlisted because they met all or most of the search criteria. These sites were:

### **Site A**

87-121 Watkinson Street Devonport

### **Site B**

3-9 Mersey Main Road Spreyton

The search criteria used by the planning consultants were:

#### *'Essential'*

- The size of the site should ideally be a minimum of two hectares.
- The site should be within the Devonport area, providing for ease of access and connection.
- The site should avoid excessive noise, light and vibration i.e. not close to industrial or transport activities.
- The site would need to be zoned appropriately under the relevant Tasmanian Planning Scheme.
- The site must accommodate safe vehicle access and egress, including onsite staff/visitor parking and bus pick-up and drop-off.

#### *'Desirable'*

- The site should preferably be government-owned, however private land will be considered.
- The site should be close to another government school to allow for associations/students to interact together.
- The site should be relatively flat.

For the consultation process, the perceived benefits and challenges for each site were listed to provide a balanced and unbiased presentation of both sites for consideration. Respondents were asked to rank the two sites in order of preference, via an online or hard copy feedback form, which also contained a free text field for additional comments. Feedback was also able to be submitted via the Department's *Get Involved* email box.

## Site A



### Land Details

Owner	Dept for Education Children and Young People
Property Address	87-121 Watkinson St Devonport
Land Area	2.52ha±
PID / CT	6319223 / 235841/1
Land Zoning	Community Purpose
Distance from current NWSS site	5.2km
Code Overlays	Bushfire Prone Areas Code Natural Assets Code

### Benefits

- Close proximity to Don College
- DECYP-owned land
- Close to support services
- Relatively flat site
- Appropriately zoned for education purposes
- Student engagement opportunities
- Close to nature reserve

### Challenges

- Would add to traffic load on existing street access which contain adjacent residential properties
- Nearby Don River railway line
- Limited nearby retail

## Site B



### Land Details

Owner	Devonport City Council
Property Address	3-9 Mersey Main Road, Spreyton Tas 7310
Land Area	2.3ha±
PID / CT	6384914 / 39640/1
Land Zoning	Recreation
Distance from current NWSS site	2.3km
Code Overlays	Coastal Erosion Hazard Code Natural Assets Code

### Benefits

- Close proximity to Spreyton Primary School
- Relatively flat site
- Zoned as Discretionary Use (potentially suitable for education purposes)
- Local road access
- Student engagement opportunities

### Challenges

- Further away from support services
- Council-owned land
- Currently occupied by netball courts
- Located on a busy road

## CAMPAIGN OUTPUTS

The *Get Involved* consultation for NWSS Devonport site options was launched on 11 June 2024. The campaign ran for four weeks and concluded on 5 July 2024. Campaign outputs were:

- Multiple communications through the NWSS communication channels.
- Ministerial media release (and subsequent article in The Advocate newspaper)
- Direct outreach to the Premier's Disability Advisory Council.
- Direct outreach to the Devonport City Council
- Direct outreach to Don College and Spreyton Primary School.
- Direct outreach to the Early Childhood Intervention Service Devonport
- Direct emails to relevant State and Federal elected representatives
- Direct emails to the NWSS consultation database
- Community Reference Group meeting held on 11 June 2024.
- Hard copies of the consultation feedback form sent home with all students from NWSS Devonport and made available in the NWSS Devonport administration area
- NWSS *Get Involved* page on the DECYP website
- Multiple posts on the NWSS Devonport Facebook Page
- Online feedback form
- Dedicated *Get Involved* email box to receive submissions
- Face to face meeting opportunities at NWSS Devonport campus
- 49x radio advertising slots on SEAFM Burnie and Devonport
- 2x print advertisements in The Advocate newspaper (Saturday edition)
- 1x print advertisement in community press publication the Kentish Voice
- Four weeks of Facebook and Instagram advertising geo-targeting audiences on the North West Coast likely to be parents of school-aged children aged 3-17 years.

## PARTICIPATION

Community participation in the *Get Involved* consultation for NWSS Devonport site options was strong.

Participants in the consultation came from a mix of parents and carers, school staff, support service providers, community members and local government. Across all mediums, the total number of submissions received was 300.

### Online feedback form

A total of 295 unique feedback forms were received, noting that a further 11 forms were received but were determined to be either duplicates or were from respondents who had already submitted a form.

### Email submissions

A total of five submissions were received via the *Get Involved* email box.

### Hard copy submissions

Hard copies of the online feedback form were sent home with all students from NWSS Devonport and made available in the NWSS Devonport campus administration. A total of three completed hard copy forms were

received and for the purposes of collation, these were tallied together with the online feedback form submissions.

### Face to face meetings

The *Get Involved* consultation included the opportunity for NWSS Devonport parents and carers to speak directly with DECYP representatives. These sessions were advertised via school communications and held on:

- Thursday 13 June 2024
- Tuesday 18 June 2024
- Friday 21 June 2024

While there were discussions held with some staff members at one of these sessions, there were no face-to-face meetings held with parents or carers.

### Community Reference Group

A meeting of the NWSS Devonport Community Reference Group was held on 11 June 2024, which comprises DECYP, Devonport City Council, Premier’s Disability Advisory Council, and NWSS parents/carer representatives. This meeting had 12 attendees, with discussion focused on the two shortlisted sites.

## INTERPRETING THE FEEDBACK

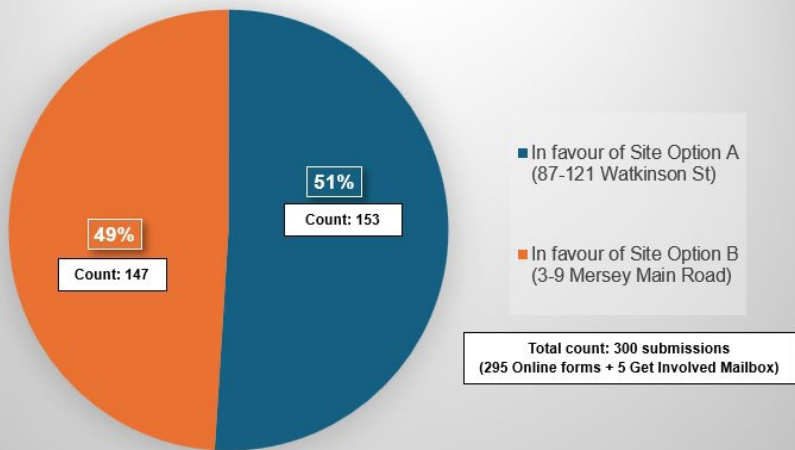
All feedback received through the consultation has been reviewed and best efforts have been made to interpret it to ensure accuracy and integrity and support informed decision-making by the Tasmanian Government. Written submissions, including the additional comments provided in the online feedback form have been collated to capture the reasons provided for site preferencing.

Through the consultation, it was identified that 11 duplicate submissions were received via the online feedback form. To ensure an accurate tally of site preferences, multiple submissions received from the same respondent have been counted only once. Where a submission was received that expressed opposition to a particular site without expressing a preference for the alternative site, it has been counted as in favour of the alternate site.

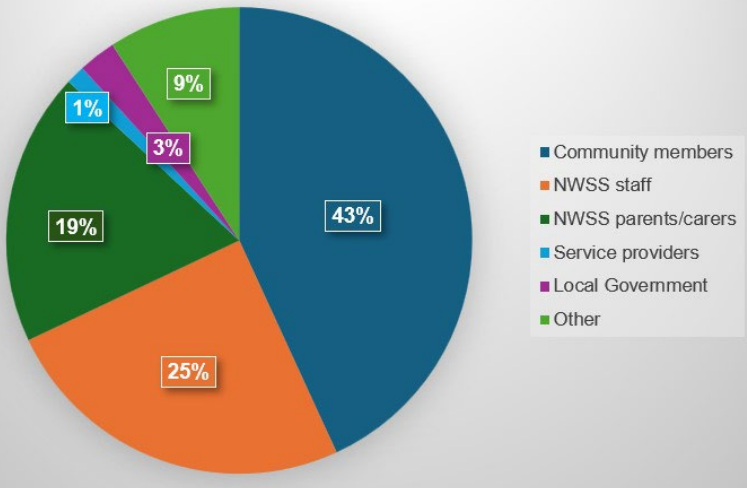
## WHAT WE HEARD

Feedback providers	Channels	In favour of Site Option A (87-121 Watkinson St, Devonport)	In favour of Site Option B (3-9 Mersey Main Road, Spreyton)
Community members	Online feedback form	66	80
		0	2
NWSS staff		38	25
		0	0
NWSS parents/carers		29	22
		0	0
Service providers		2	0
		0	0
Local Government	3	0	
	1	0	
Other	14	16	
	0	2	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>153</b>	<b>147</b>

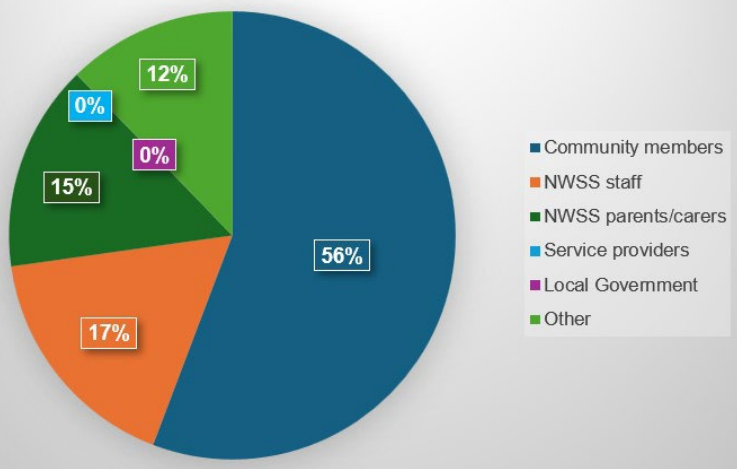
### Total submissions



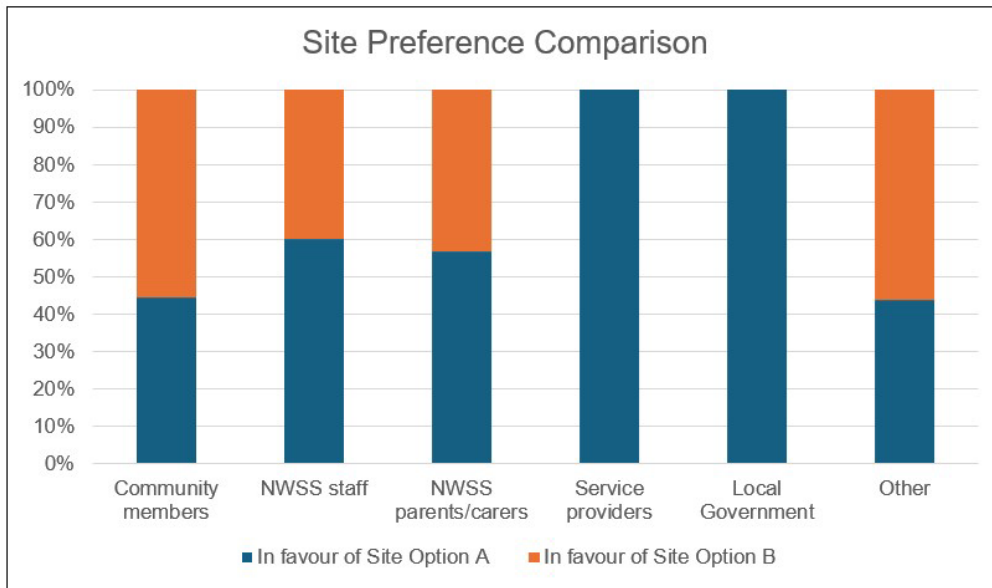
### In favour of Site Option A (87-121 Watkinson St)



### In favour of Site Option B (3-9 Mersey Main Road)







## ONLINE FEEDBACK FORMS

The online feedback form was web-based using the Microsoft Teams platform, which respondents accessed via the NWSS *Get Involved* page on the DECYP website.

### Response summary

- Of the 295 unique online feedback forms received, 152 listed Site A (87-121 Watkinson Street) as their first preference and 143 listed Site B (3-9 Mersey Main Road) as their first preference.
- Of the 152 that listed Site A as their first preference, 29 were NWSS families, 38 were NWSS staff, 66 were community members, 14 were 'Other', 3 were from local government and 2 were service providers.
- Of the 143 that listed Site B as their first preference, 22 were NWSS families, 25 were NWSS staff, 80 were community members, 16 were 'Other', 0 were from local government and 0 were service providers.
- Of the total number of online feedback forms received, 148 provided additional feedback.
- Of those that provided additional feedback and listed Site A as their first preference, the most commonly cited reasons were:
  - **Opportunities for student interactions between NWSS and Don College**
  - **Proximity to existing nature reserve**
  - **Perception that works could commence sooner due to the site being owned by DECYP**
  - **Traffic concerns about Site B**
  - **Perception that Site B is too industrial and located in proximity to a waste transfer station**
  - **Concern about loss of netball courts at Site B.**
- Of those that provided additional feedback and listed Site B as their first preference, the most commonly cited reasons were:
  - **Perceived greater synergies for student/staff engagement between NWSS and Spreyton Primary School**
  - **Closer to current NWSS campus in Middle Road Miandetta**
  - **Perceived to be closer to services and retail**
  - **Concern about loss of amenity and traffic/parking impacts to local residents adjacent to Site A**
  - **Concern about Site A's impacts to Don College and loss of outdoor/nature space**
  - **Concern about Site A's proximity to the Don River Railway.**

## COMMUNITY REFERENCE GROUP

A meeting of the NWSS Devonport Community Reference Group was held on 11 June 2024. During this meeting, the group discussed the following issues related to the two shortlisted sites.

### Site A

Discussion was held on whether there were flooding issues with the site and advice was provided that while no geotechnical study of the site had yet been completed, there were no known significant flooding issues.

It was noted that the site had proximity to water and that there could be students jumping fences, but that the site was still a distance away from this water.

There was discussion that the proximity to Don College presented potential development and interaction opportunities for community services with students, as well as potential synergies for learner transitioning.

The proximity of the rail line was discussed, noting the potential impact students with sensory difficulties. It was also noted that this was a tourist railway, and that contemporary design and layout of school buildings could effectively manage and mitigate noise.

There was also discussion on the potential for bus routes to be added to service the site and how parking and traffic would be addressed. It was identified that additional bus routes were possible and that the site was large enough to be able to accommodate onsite parking and bus pick up and drop off to minimise additional load on the adjacent residential streets.

### Site B

Discussion was held on the vision for the existing netball courts on this site and it was noted that the current plan was for the courts to be relocated to the planned new sports precinct at Devonport Oval. It was likely that this meant it would take longer to become available to develop the NWSS Devonport campus here than the other option. It was raised whether the Devonport Oval had been precluded as a potential site for NWSS Devonport, and it was confirmed that there was general awareness that planning was already well advanced for the site to become a sports precinct, hence it was not a viable option for NWSS.

It was discussed whether NWSS would have to share the circular driveway at the back of Spreyton Primary School for pick-up and drop-off should the site be selected. Concerns were expressed about the real or perceived impacts for a school for students with a disability to be located at the back of a tip and in proximity to industrial activities.

It was raised that the idea of a support school “near the tip” would create an association or perception, but it was noted that there was already a school in the same location and that the ‘tip’ was a waste-transfer station.

There was discussion about the busy roads around the site. It was noted that many schools across Tasmania were located near major roads, but that safety is always a top priority. It was raised the site also has local road access which would help alleviate the issue and could be configured to provide separate parking and access from Spreyton Primary School.

The full Minutes from this meeting are available at [www.decyp.tas.gov.au/nwss](http://www.decyp.tas.gov.au/nwss)

## EMAIL SUBMISSIONS

Email submissions were encouraged via DECYP’s *Get Involved* email box. A total of five written submissions were received via email. These submissions were received from the Devonport City Council, the Spreyton Primary School Association, the Don College School Association and two from local community members living in proximity to Site A.

### Response summary

#### Devonport City Council

- Council supports Site A as its first preference
- Site A is already owned by DECYP and appropriately zoned for education purposes
- No threatened species vegetation removal or public land disposal process is required for Site A
- NWSS development would not impact the existing Don Reserve

- Site A could be developed quicker than Site B
- Site B is also considered a suitable site for NWSS
- Spreyton Netball Centre currently located at Site B is proposed to be relocated to the new sports complex in North Fenton
- Site B would likely become available from 2027.
- Discussions between DECYP and Council and formal Council decision would be required to confirm Site B availability.

#### Spreyton Primary School Association

- Spreyton Primary School Association acknowledges and supports the commitment to redevelop NWSS Devonport
- The School Association notes that Site B meets many of the search criteria to be suitable for NWSS Devonport
- Should Site B be chosen, the School Association wishes to work closely with DECYP, NWSS and the Devonport City Council to ensure mutually beneficial outcomes for both school communities including opportunities for student engagement and collaboration between school associations.
- Consideration would need to be given to traffic management and safety due to increased traffic on Mersey Main Road which is congested at school drop-off and pick-up times.

#### Don College School Association

- Don College School Association's preferred option for NWSS is Site B
- The School Association seeks clarification on how Don College's integration with NWSS could occur that minimises impacts to all students, noting the potential to create a divided, co-located campus
- The School Association would like to understand the educational opportunities that this new development could bring for Don College students, such as potential Vocational Education and Training (VET) opportunities
- Concern was raised about increased traffic flow and safety implications and requested that DECYP undertake a traffic impact assessment
- Concern was raised about the loss of the oval at Site A as this space is used by the College and the community, and alternative solutions for the College would be required.
- Concern was raised that locating NWSS at Site A would limit the expansion and growth opportunities for Don College in the future.

#### Community member submission 1

- The community member identified that they reside in Watkinson Street and are opposed to location of NWSS Devonport at Site A.
- Concerns were raised in relation to increased traffic volumes for the local area and the impact to the wildlife that use the oval.
- Concerns were also raised about the NWSS development at Site A impacting residential property values and that residents would be impacted by a long, noisy build process.

#### Community member submission 2

- The community member identified that they are a local resident in proximity to Site A, and that they believe it is not the best site for NWSS.
- Concerns were raised about the traffic impact to the local area and the wildlife in the surrounding nature reserve.
- Concerns were also raised about the visual amenity impact to tourists on the Don River Railway, the loss of parkland green space for Don College and the community.
- There was a view expressed that Don College requires more land to expand and that the loss of Site A would impact the College.
- Site B was raised as a better location for NWSS.

## NEXT STEPS

This outcomes report will be considered by the Minister for Education and DECYP as part of the decision-making process to determine the preferred site for NWSS Devonport. This report will be made publicly available via the DECYP website and distributed via the consultation database.

# WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS



## ONLINE FEEDBACK FORMS

## Site A first preference

I think it would be great for the new school to be located next to Don College.

We could have a buddy system with Don students especially our TASC students.

Our TASC students could access some of the Don programs.

We could potentially have Don catering/health/childcare students come and assist with our programs.

This could also create interest with Don students to consider joining our school as a career when they leave school helping with our growing need of staff as we expand.

I do believe adding another school in Spreyton near the primary school will create extreme traffic problems as there is quite a lot of build up there during school hours already.

Also the Don location is bigger.

Spreyton does not seem like a good option. It is very close to asbestos and chemical rubbish points.

Spreyton is not a suitable option for the school build given it is not in a residential area, it is on a busy road, it is extremely close to the tip and there is a pre-existing facility there. While Don is certainly not perfect, it is a far better option than Spreyton.

Spreyton is a poor choice for a new school build due to already congested traffic conditions, proximity to industrial sites, proximity to waste disposal. Spreyton also has slower access to emergency services and is land locked between industrial and farming lands preventing pedestrian access and outdoor school activities. Don is more central, better traffic conditions, access to Coles Beach, Don River railway and local walking tracks suitable for differently abled people. The Don location will allow high school and college age NW Support School students to have access to Don College facilities.

Why put a support school near a tip when it can be close to don and walking tracks and the train.

Devonport is a centrally located accessible site by regular public transport.

Having studied at The Don College I know the quality of the staff, the supportive nature of the teachers and the challenges they set for individuals to grow and learn about individuals' key strength and to overcome shortfalls. The facilities were underfunded then but the education they provided was critical to my current career. I believe they are well overdue for additional funding, and it would be exciting to see what opportunities they generate with some financial breathing room.

PAG identified the Don College as an alternative site over 12 months ago, having great potential and synergies with a new NWSS.

Being close to the aquatic Centre will be an additional bonus.

Why the hell would you put a school next to a tip?

A beach environment would be far more conducive to a good learning environment!

Don't put a school near a tip, both staff and students wouldn't like to be in that environment.

Near the pool.

The second location isn't an ideal location for public access accessibility.

The Watkinson street site would be a much better as it would the school the opportunity to go for walks, close to pool and other activities in Devonport. On a side note, the Don College in the same area gives our young adults the opportunity to interact with these wonderful people.

The Watkinson St location would suit better for the association with peers, as students of a similar age attend the college and would be appropriate for students of the support school would be here travelling on the same buses etc. Older students at the college are more likely to interact in an inclusive and considerate manner.

A site closer to a primary school could have a more negative impacts as younger children are more vulnerable in our community.

Too much traffic already for Mersey Main Road. Adding an extra school there will only make things much more difficult for road users and parents trying to go in and out of Spreyton Primary already.

As a parent at Spreyton Primary School the traffic is already at peak during school pick-ups and drop-offs adding another school would increase the chaos with less parking opportunities, longer pickup and drop off times. That would be more risk to students because of the larger volume of traffic.

Impact of traffic as this road is extremely busy.

The Don site has access to the Don Reserve the Don Railway and Coles Beach.

It is also more centrally located than the Spreyton site.

Why would you remove the netball courts when they are a heavily used community resource? That's just silly, Watkinson St is also closer to other needed resources.

It would be helpful to have shared the accessibility of netball if the Spreyton site was used.

The traffic congestion around Spreyton Primary School (PS) is already bad enough without adding further congestion.

Because of the lack of wet weather surfaces at Spreyton PS part of the netball centre is used on wet days. Loosing this option would restrict play spaces for students.

The closeness of community resources by having the site closer to town (Watkinson St) would be advantageous.

Perfect environment for school.

I think the Don College site is ideal, and also more available currently compared to the Spreyton site.

The staff at the school work very hard and are committed to their work. Their priority is always in the best interest of the children in their care. They all deserve the best school possible at the best location.

As much as I would love the see the development in Spreyton - it's already far too busy during school hours.

There would have to be considerable upgrades to the road infrastructure in the area before this could happen.

Perhaps the netball courts would be better utilised by placing the new sport stadium there instead of in town?

I think that traffic will be a challenge and will need to be carefully managed; however, it is a beautiful setting for the students providing opportunity to be in nature. The Spreyton site would not be as nice for the students. I also like the idea of our students interacting with the Support School students; lots of opportunities there.

Netball is huge in the community. Where would they go and what a waste of money moving them when they have such good court set up. Industrial area with trucks and large vehicles passing.

Traffic congestion on Spreyton Main Rd is already at a very high level at school drop off and pick up times. Loss of good quality netball courts.

Watkinson St site is safer, support school will be fenced with child safety gates therefore train track is not an issue. Watkinson St site will be quieter which is beneficial to special needs children particularly those with sensory needs.

Mersey Main Road is an extremely busy area especially at school times. More traffic would differently be a disadvantage. Netball is very popular and the courts are in a wonderful location. I would hate to see them relocated. Where would they go?

Spreyton is already too congested with traffic. It would be unsafe to build next to Spreyton Primary School. If you did go ahead with that site, I suggest a back entry/exit only. There are already traffic delays/ near missed accidents on that Rd without adding to the traffic with another school.

Spreyton is already subject to traffic congestion around school pickup and drop off and this would add extra pressure. The road is quite noisy being a main arterial road, low noise was a requirement. I feel Watkinson St would be better suited. Spreyton is also a residential growth area. I would be interested to see a traffic management plan and also where the netball centre would locate to.

It is vitally important that extensive consideration is given to the layout of the school - in particular consideration of children who may have high behavioural support needs. I believe positive behaviour specialists, occupational therapists, psychologist and other clinical staff should be engaged through this process to ensure the design meets needs.

I like that it is close to another educational facility and to a nature reserve and within the local community.

Traffic is a concern at the Spreyton site. Air pollution from the tip will cause problems for allergies.

I believe that Watkinson Street site will be a more accessible place, especially for those classes that go on excursions, there is the ability to be able to do more activities within the community, and it will only need to be some changes, to make it more accessible for our students. The site is quite large; therefore, all classes can be within the same site rather than be on 2 different campuses, and there will be no need to travel between the 2 for students



and staff. Whereas the Spreyton site will need to be constructed and built, which could take years.

Spreyton would be a terrible idea for the site due to the lack of traffic management. As a Spreyton resident for 20 years and using the school already next to the proposed site for the past 8 years adding more school traffic to the area without traffic management being taken into consideration and being implemented before any new site is built would be a number of accidents waiting to happen. Spend 10 minutes on Mersey main road Spreyton during school pick up and drop of times to cement my claim.

Spreyton area is already congested with traffic and cannot support more traffic.

I just think Mersey Main Road has traffic issues. My daughter goes home via bus, but I think that the added congestion to Mersey Main Rd will adversely affect parents who pick their kids up.

Should leave the current netball courts as they are used regularly, and the community needs facilities like these. If there is another site available and suitable then this should be used.

I believe it would be less busy at Watkinson St and less congested.

The traffic around Spreyton Primary is anyway hard to deal with on a normal day without another school next door to it.

Traffic congestion at Spreyton. Possible tip smell

The Watkinson Street site would be quieter & close to the Don Reserve & Coles Beach, which would be great for nature walks for the students.

87-121 Watkinson Street Devonport.

Don is first choice but a concern about being “tucked away” on the edges of town, noise from Don River rail could be problematic for sensory kids, proximity to nearest primary school and shops for peer and community involvement dubious.

Spreyton is second choice because although primary school is next door as well as shops, being on “tip road” does not send a good message for our community about where we place our vulnerable kids. There may also be sensory issues from smells and noise from busy roads and industrial.

Does this mean you will be doing up the College as that would be great for my daughter.

I believe the traffic in Spreyton already struggles to handle the traffic from the school already there. It is chaotic at best.

I think Don College will be an amazing site, good options for transitional education and access to town and transport. It is level access and has more of a community feel. It's integral that this happens.

Don't take our sports grounds at Spreyton.

Being able to tap into the resources of another school onsite would be beneficial.

Neither of these sites are any good from a parent's point of view. I have children at Spreyton Primary and already traffic there is a nightmare both morning and afternoon, add another school and us working parents would have no hope of getting to work on time or picking our children up on time, making it unsafe for the children. Children are not allowed at the school any earlier but if you add more traffic to the area, it will be beyond a nightmare.

And putting it on the site with Don College, putting older children and those with special needs in the same area is just asking for trouble in my opinion, I'm not saying all by any means but some of those older children will not make it a pleasant experience for all involved, they will be completely separate I realise that but there will still be cross overs in certain parts like footpaths and areas surrounding.

Surely there are better options that don't add to already nightmare traffic or put in an area that is more accessible?

Neither of the above address', maybe at the back of Reece High School, with access off of Forbes St, or a similar site. Lots of space, with access to Staff and Students from mainstream education to mentor, and gain insights, understanding and experience with those with Special needs. A more integrated approach of education, and life skills.

Penguin School was a missed opportunity I personally would have liked the government/education department to have just gone ahead with this site.

Both options are conflicting due to the challenges.

Watkinson Street would be great, but my worry is the thick bushland, water and train track behind the property. I acknowledge that the school will be fully fenced but with the chance given, any child could run off into that terrain and easily become lost or in danger of injury.

Spreyton is already such a busy area; being a main road plus, traffic going to and from the primary school. This would create the same difficulty of driving in and out of the school and poses a risk of any child who may get out.

Neither of these sites is ideal.

## EMAIL SUBMISSIONS

### Site A first preference

I write on behalf of Devonport City Council to express our wholehearted support for the Department of Education's decision to establish a purpose-built Support School campus in Devonport. Council appreciates the opportunity to have input into potential location of the school. Of the two sites, Council strongly supports 87-121 Watkinson Street as the preferred site. 87-121 Watkinson Street is located within an existing school boundary, on land that is already owned by the Education Department and will not have any impact on the users of neighbouring Don Reserve. It will be the fastest and easiest site to achieve a development on as no rezoning, threatened species vegetation removal or public land disposal processes are evoked. Please note that any required fire separation is to occur within the Education Department site, rather than require vegetation removal within the Don Reserve.

Whilst not Council's first preference, 3-9 Mersey Main Road is also considered a suitable site for the Devonport campus of the North-West Support School.

In relation to 3-9 Mersey Main Road, Council offers the following observations:

- Owner: Devonport City Council

- 3-9 Mersey Main Road is currently used as the Spreyton Netball Centre. The existing use is moving to the new sports complex in North Fenton Street. This site is likely to be available for sale and reuse from 2027 onwards.
- Council is yet to determine what the best use of this space is once Netball no longer requires it.
- The netball property is currently supplemented by car parking located on adjacent land titles. It is not clear if the support school would require some of this land also.
- The land is also listed as Public Land on the Devonport Public Land Register. The *Local Government Act 1993* outlines the process for disposal of public land that includes public notification. Should the Department of Education be interested in purchasing this land, separate discussions will need to be held and a formal decision made by Council. Community reaction to the potential sale of the Spreyton Netball Centre is untested at this time.
- Zoned Recreation, Education is a discretionary use on this site.

Council appreciates the opportunity to be consulted on potential sites of the Devonport Campus of the North West Support School and requests the opportunity to remain an involved stakeholder throughout the process.

## ONLINE FEEDBACK FORMS

### Site B first preference

I have always been a supporter of having a primary school work in concert with the support school. Share resources and have children come and go from both schools to benefit from social, cultural and learning opportunities. Having some of the children mainstreamed for part of the time in the local primary school would provide education not only for those children but the wider school community. All too often teachers, schools and indeed parents think that children would be better off (safer and out of the way) segregated in special school, reducing the load on regular classroom teachers. The aim should be to better skill all teachers to cater for children with disabilities. Support schools are not a place to hide our children away. Those ideas are outdated. So, I am supporting the location next to Spreyton Primary School. As for services bring farther away, try living in Hobart, it's really unrealistic to think that all services should be in close proximity. I would also suggest that the principal of Spreyton be vetted for their understanding and acceptance of disability and inclusion. From experience we all know not all principals and teachers have unconditional regard for those with disability and this can impact greatly on the services provided in schools.

Spreyton is not further from support services and has more direct access from the highway for emergency services.

The site at Spreyton is flat and level which is valuable for staff and students.

Close to the current site.

Close to the local Spreyton School which could have some great benefits for future collaboration

The Mersey Main Road sight has room for expansion and doesn't impact the Don College's room for expansion in the future

I prefer the Spreyton site as I think the access will be more favourable, and the chance to interact with Spreyton Primary School students beneficial.

JUST SO EXCITED!!!

Let's get this happening for these amazing students.

Parking is already limited at Don. This will make things way worse. Parking around the facility at Miandetta is chaotic and it will just transfer to Don if they move here.

It is an excellent location for the NW support school, very roomy and close to parks and excursion locations.

Moving the NWSS to Watkinson Street would cause much more congestion than it already has and raise concerns about disabled children and road safety, considering the number of young drivers on the road in Watkinson Street, Don College. Mersey Main Road has plenty of car parking at the rear of the property and is much safer for the children.

Development for the proposed Spreyton site will need to include adequate parking on Bay Drive and the potential to widen Bay Drive to accommodate the excess traffic that will occur.

Currently Mersey Main Road is extremely busy, so possibly there may require traffic lights at the Bay Drive intersection near the Spreyton Memorial Hall.

It would be great an ideal spot as there is plenty of parking at the rear of the grounds.

Easily accessible.

As a young community member, I fear that the location close to Don College could be problematic. Young adults are often premature in their actions and decisions. Putting vulnerable people so close to young adults who could be quite rude and disruptive, could prove to be challenging not only to the Support School Students, but also Don College Students.

The land in that area is also used for recreational use, taking away a large portion of the land would significantly disrupt the social aspect of the Don area. There would be hundreds of people who use that space every day, who would then not have use of the space. We are also losing recreational parks with any kind of nature, especially such an important native area so quickly, and this kind of area would be quickly diminished by another large school.

Parking & Traffic is another concern for that area. Parking, Traffic flow and just general safety should be a large concern regarding the proposed Don site. There is no through road, and congestion at the Don College entrance is already high.

Will there be consultation with the Don College community?

We have up to 36 lessons of PE a week? We have limited parking now? Will there be any opportunity to discuss these concerns?

I would hope that the final location will have enough space/options to allow for growth in the future. I have worked as a special needs teacher in three states and each new 'Support School' facility usually outgrows the land area.

I do not think the Don College site is an appropriate site for the support school for a number of reasons. Firstly, how busy Watkinson Street is already also parking considerations and hindering any expansion needs at the college.

Currently, parking at Don College is very difficult and gets more difficult as the year progresses, as more students obtain their licenses. Residents around the college often have difficulty accessing their properties or finding parks due to overflow from the college. The loss

of parking and more people attending the area will further exacerbate an already existing problem.

I would like to keep the Don Reserve (including the Don College oval) as an undeveloped green belt area for use by the general public).

Sad to see our green belt impacted and for the Don River railway section impacted.

I think the Don reserve area should remain as it is to preserve the natural habitat in the surrounding area.

Yes. Watkinson St option is a total encroachment again of unnecessary development into what makes Devonport unique. The local nature walks and surrounds, native wildlife and low density impact is perfect. Why even ponder breaking up the scare bush land that our native fauna and flora have to contend with. More housing and unnecessary development and environmental pressure on our little pocket of native bush and adjacent to the Don River. Just clueless as to why this has been an option of 14 other options. Clearly u make up your own minds and community consultation is window dressing. Appalled at the option of Watkinson Rd. Spreyton is already set up environmental and retail and more to easily accommodate this development. And perhaps rise the community engagement that this project and the "stadium" St the Bluff too. Luckily, I found out about this project and details to complete this engagement through 2 little lines in the Advocate. Not many communities have available funds to purchase the Advocate and more for this "development". Have you seen the number of dead wildlife appearing on Devonport roads. Wake up. Stop destroying our Devonport by urbanisation of areas that don't need to be touched for growth and development.

I am very concerned about the lack of a traffic management plan for Spreyton, given the Residential Growth Strategy Plan document. We are traditionally an agricultural area, and the roads are struggling to cope at the moment with the traffic we have (cars, heavy trucks) especially around Spreyton Primary and Mersey Main Rd. Before I support any further developments (or my family supports any developments) by either adding another school or any more subdivisions, we would like to see a detailed plan of how traffic will be managed, ensuring that agriculture or industrial businesses can keep operating and most importantly, we are safe, especially our school children at pick up and drop off times (plus all the time). How can we expand without adequate road infrastructure that supports it?

Traffic management and safety is the biggest concern here.

I love the idea of a support school here where Spreyton is inclusive and diverse, but we must do it right, with safe traffic management plans in place.

There is likely to be significant parking issues at Watkinson St location. Don College currently don't have enough parking space for staff and then students who have obtained their licence, let alone a significant influence of cars from a new school. Have you considered how may staff work at the school compared to the student population?

The Don location borders on a regular train network that could trigger some students and interrupt classes.

The Don location is also very damp and surrounding forests would limit the light and sunshine coming in. This is important given sometimes students may stay outside or day if too anxious to come into class.

The Don location is near a large body of water. If a dysregulated student were to jump a fence and run away, they would be at significant near a train track and large body of water in such close proximity.

The Don location would need wallaby proof fencing due to students with Pica (eating of inedible or unsafe objects or things). Spreyton location would also need to consider this.

Don staff utilise the current space for outdoor education and PE classes.

Spreyton offers a quiet environment, and the entrance can be set back from the main road. There is great potential to links to the community sporting clubs and businesses.

After years of students and staff working in substandard facilities at the Devonport campus, it is important that the new school meets the high expectations of the community, parents and staff. These students deserve a welcoming, safe, spacious, functional, warm and inviting space that cater for their complex needs.

I note that there has been historical flooding at the end of Watkinson Street proposed for this Site Option A. Site Option B is larger which would mean it has scope for adding future infrastructure if the school expands, etc.; plus, level access infrastructure at both sides of Site Option B seems a positive compared with Site Option A.

Mersey Main Rd would be a much better option. Consider the access to both sites. Watkinson street is already super busy with near misses every morning at Don College. There is currently no access for bus options on the oval and parking is no existent.

Furthermore, you are removing the only viable sporting space for Don College to use. Its regularly used in sports classes. Removing this detracts from our students needs and outcomes.

The Watkinson Street site is a very wet site. The grounds are too close to vegetation and bush land. Prone to mould. It's a nice area but only for the summer period. Access would be difficult with tight streets.

The potential for friendships and connections with the primary school community at Spreyton are more genuine than with the young adults at the Don College campus.

The intersection on Bay Drive and Mersey Main Road is overdue to be upgraded so turning right can be made easier. Also, Bay Drive to be widened to accommodate cars and larger vehicles (buses etc).

The proximity of the train line at the Watkinson Street site makes the location inappropriate.

In addition, there are opportunities to combine on occasion with Spreyton Primary if the Spreyton location is utilised. Parking/traffic movements can be improved in the area and pick up/drop off can be carried out from Bay Drive to ensure any issues on Mersey Main Road do not affect the school.

I believe the driveway for the school would be better off the main road, using the existing netball driveway.

Traffic would be an issue at the Don College site. I have been a parent at Spreyton Primary and work at Don College so I'm very familiar with traffic in both locations. Parking at Don is horrendous, particularly the further you get through the year and more students gain their licence. Traffic at the Spreyton site could enter via Bay Drive which has much better entry and exit points and is set up for greater traffic flow. The Spreyton site has heaps of parking available also. Did the group also consider the bottom of Reece High?

Watkinson St is simply not suitable from a sensory standpoint if nothing else. The train line goes directly behind it with no buffering from any bushland in between. This is excessively noisy, and I believe would not be in the best interests of the children attending the NWSS. Whilst association with another school would be beneficial, I hold reservations about the age appropriateness of interactions between pupils. A primary school setting (E.g. SP) has complete supervision and scheduled classes. At DC students have free lines and come and go from the school autonomously with no guarantee that they would not have anti-social interactions with NWSS children. DC frequently meander along the Don Reserve also. This is also Don College (DC)'s oval, not a second oval that is superfluous, rather their only oval- I'm not even sure why it has been considered due to that fact alone. DC has over 10 classes that require a physical education component and a gym that cannot house all these classes as is. I guess the question is, does DECYP want to acquire more land when schools need to expand (not unlike the need for DC to expand itself), or take away land from existing schools? Make it make sense.

The parking would be horrendous near Don College and there is parking behind the area on Mersey Main Rd which is safe and less traffic

Has the congestion of parking and public transport at the Don College been considered? I am also concerned that a school with the population that Don College has will lose a large proportion of its health and physical education reserve. There are currently approximately 36 classes in this subject area all of which will be affected by the loss of this area. Don College also has extreme network coverage issues; the addition of another school will add further burden onto this infrastructure. I would also be concerned that the proposed site sits on a cul-de-sac, where would entry and exit to the new school be and how will this affect local residents?

Very good place easy access no congestion or we move if not allocated at that sight. Towns no good for children heaps of room for children to move and play.

I am wishing to formally object to the planned construction of the new Northwest Support School at Don College. While I understand the necessity of providing such a facility, I believe this specific plan will have significant negative impacts on Don College, which is already facing numerous challenges.

Don College is currently experiencing severe overcrowding, primarily due to a substantial increase in the number of students enrolled in trades and technology programs. These programs, which are critical for preparing our students for the modern workforce, require specialized facilities and equipment that are already stretched to their limits. The college has outgrown its original design and capacity, leading to a situation where space is at a premium and further expansion is urgently needed to accommodate the current and future needs of our students.

The proposed construction of the Northwest Support School on the Don College site will directly impede the college's ability to expand and improve its existing facilities. This will not only exacerbate the current overcrowding issues but will also limit the college's capacity to offer a comprehensive and high-quality education to its students. The loss of potential expansion space is a significant concern, as it will restrict the college's ability to adapt to the evolving educational landscape and meet the increasing demand for its programs.

Furthermore, the disruption caused by the construction process will likely have a detrimental impact on the learning environment at Don College. The noise, dust, and general upheaval associated with a major building project could interfere with the students' ability to concentrate and succeed in their studies.

Additionally, the proposed new school will significantly increase traffic in the already congested Watkinson Street area. The current infrastructure is not equipped to handle a substantial rise in vehicular activity, and the increased traffic could lead to longer commute times, heightened safety risks for students and pedestrians, and further strain on local resources. This will add to the existing congestion and create a more challenging environment for everyone in the vicinity.

In light of these concerns, I urge you to reconsider the Don College location for the new Northwest Support School. It is essential that we find a solution that addresses the needs of all students in our community without compromising the quality of education at Don College. I propose that alternative sites be thoroughly evaluated to ensure that we can support both the current and future needs of our educational institutions.

Thank you for the opportunity.

Traffic volumes passing the front of Don College are already unsafe. To reroute 100 plus additional movements each morning and night through another school zone, Nixon Street, would not be wise. The consultation process has not considered the current and future needs of Don College. Development of NWSS on this site will limit future options for areas of the college that are already overflowing.

Don College has not received adequate consultation on current use of this space and what alternatives we might have should we lose access to this space. Will students be required to be transported off site to open recreational spaces in the future?

Don College has one gymnasium providing for 750 students with 2 and 3 classes scheduled for this space every lesson. The oval is our only functional outdoor space in winter due to flooding of other open grassland spaces.

Specifics in respect to opportunities for integration and interaction between NWSS and Don College students has not been provided.

Spreyton would be amazing for the North West Support School as its just down the road and not on the other side of town.

Don College is a traffic management nightmare already! I believe the Spreyton site is more suitable - far easier to get to and not likely to impact the operational requirements of a busy senior secondary campus.

Don College area is a beautiful place for recreational activities. Would be sad to see the oval developed for anything else.

What are the reasons for the council voting unanimously for the Watkinson St site?

Do no council members use the reserve track in this area?

Would be very sad to see this area of Devonport developed.

The Don railway will be impacted by the view going past the oval.

Long term resident overlooking the proposed Watkinson Street location. This area is all part of Don Reserve which is beautiful natural bushland and I strongly oppose removing any of this area for developing the NWSS. My home directly overlooks the large greenspace at the western end of James Street and any development of this area would negatively affect these views. This area has no through traffic and is very quiet, however the proposed development would result in a marked increase in traffic and noise pollution. We, as residents of Devonport must always strongly oppose encroaching on our threatened natural bushland when there are other, less invasive options.



I reside at [REDACTED] right opposite this development and have just found out about it. I have many concerns and oppose this development strongly until being briefed on the details of the development. I can see big issues with traffic in what is a very closed in area and a loss of valuable open green space impacting our much loved Don reserve not to mention a complete change to the tranquil quiet area I live in which is the reason I purchased in this area in the first place. I cannot approve of this development in Watkinson St until I am given a chance to get a much better understanding of the details.

I have traffic concerns for the Watkinson Street location. As a local resident, it would create chaos in an already busy area. Especially at the end of the school day. Also, it is the last bit of green space we have in area.

It is vital that green spaces are preserved in residential areas.

Traffic in Watkinson St and Upper George St is quite congested around the residential area already at school times. This includes buses, cars, bikes, scooters. This raises safety issues for both student pedestrians and residents who are walking or accessing their homes by vehicle.

As an elderly resident almost opposite the oval. My peaceful way of life will be gone forever. The traffic and noise from cars coming and going during school hours will be horrendous in this small cul-de-sac. Therefore, becoming a very dangerous place to try and reverse out and drive back in when traffic is continually parked across and opposite our driveways. It's already pretty busy with people bringing their dogs to the oval but this will make it way worse permanently.

Watkinson street totally inappropriate.

Local streets unsuitable for additional traffic. Would make them unsafe for staff, students and residents.

Not appropriate to have school adjacent to residential properties.

Proximity to bushland and railway line may present health and safety issues to students.

The Devonport oval site is home to many animals who will be displaced! It is one of only a few green spaces left in Devonport. Many families and Don College kids use this area, it is a quiet local area, with the open green spaces and peace and quiet destroyed with a three level monstrosity that will look completely out of place in this beautiful residential area. Please chose a different site that will not impact the residents and wildlife right to a peaceful quality of life.

As a property owner in the [REDACTED] area, I would like to be consulted about access to the site. Currently there is motor-vehicle access between the end of Watkinson Street and the homes situated at the end of James Street (specifically [REDACTED]). Will this continue as a no motor-vehicle access area or a thoroughfare?

This area is a haven for people wanting peace and quiet. It is also a place where there are many types of wildlife, e.g. echidnas, blue tongue lizards, wallabies, bandicoots to name some. It is also a very much loved place for families and people wanting to take a walk and there are always people utilising the area. The other concern is that there are elderly people living in this area and it is very disturbing to think how their lives will be upended, firstly with all the building works and then with the increase in traffic movements. This is one of the few green spaces in Devonport, let's keep it!

Consider Mersey Main Road the most appropriate site.

I live directly opposite the Watkinson Street site and look out over the oval. I'm naturally against any development as anybody would when their natural view is to be destroyed due to a school being built in front of you. On a practical note, though the adjacent railway is noisy throughout the day and the school will be significantly closer than I am. Also, the surrounding residential streets are busy now with just the Don College, so add another school in a quiet residential area and the area will become pretty awful traffic wise on school days. Plus, the Don Road/Watkinson St junction is dangerous now with busy traffic trying to get in and out. The Spreyton option would be better as it's close to dedicated sports venues, has excellent access options as it's next to a main road. And is close to a school for interactions. Watkinson may be peaceful (when the trains don't go past) and be close to Don College, but when you look at the bigger picture of access and services needed to support two schools next to each other it should be clear it isn't an ideal site.

This would have a very negative effect on a quiet and peaceful residential area. The cul-de-sac is predominantly housed by elderly folk, and the current minimal flow of traffic is essential for their health and safety. The area is one of the few natural places left in Devonport for people to enjoy.

The James Street area near Don College is a quiet residential area that SHOULD NOT be ruined by a major development with a multi-story school and changes to the street structure. It is a peaceful part of Devonport with wildlife, trees, shrubs, walking tracks, space - a small piece of nature left in this town.

High preference for Spreyton site, building at Devonport does have a much higher safety risk associated with nearby train lines than realistically mentioned (not just Don Railway, but also quick walking distance to the TasRail network) as an eloping child has far greater avenues for going undetected and many more options of direction to head with North and West directions having beach/river access as well as train crossings.

The Devonport site as well does not have appropriate traffic embedded into the road system and would place additional pressure on residents, despite any on-site parking plans.

Spreyton, despite being away from Devonport CBD is still on a main road and less than 5-minute travel to most schools in the Devonport region. The site there is also encircled by roads meaning access to the river is greatly reduced.

Having the site built at the netball courts places the train line on the opposite side of the road, meaning risk is lowered for elopement danger in that regard, and already has parking/traffic flow built in with the Bay Drive loop road.

Also being located adjacent to Spreyton Primary, it would be great to have it there so staffing partnerships and access to tools and materials (and possibly play spaces is appropriate) could be shared.

(I don't work at Spreyton, but I am a local educator).

A last note, access points from highway/other main roads are significantly easier for the Spreyton site than the Devonport one - meaning those travelling won't need to navigate Devonport's many residential zone roundabouts.

No consultation or information has been provided to residents who live in the area affected or owners of the properties. This is currently a green-field site that is utilised by students and general community members. Elderly people live in this area because of the quiet nature of the surrounds and the low traffic volume. This relocation has the potential to negatively impact those who live around the site as well as reduce the property values if current environmental and traffic conditions are changed to house the new school. When checking on Google Maps,

87-121 Watkinson shows up within the College grounds, not the oval site. This seems to be quite misleading. The Spreyton site is a much better space for this relocation.

It should not be built on the Don College site. The college will need this space in the near future for expansion. The facilities at Don College are already undersized and inadequate for the population of the students.

Watkinson St should not be used for the following reasons. Traffic congestion in Watkinson St is already a considerable danger. And the surrounding area, bushland, the Don railway and the river Don is not a safe environment for students.

Don't disrupt a natural environment.

Keep invasive development to the Spreyton non-residential area. The James Street grounds are a natural reserve where wildlife and residents are at peace.

I don't understand why Don College is going to lose the grassed oval. This is a very well used piece of college life. It would be great to see the College supported by having something built there like a trade centre if they are going to lose this space.

I would prefer Mersey Main Road to be chosen as the development site and I would prefer Watkinson Street to be left as it is now and not developed at all. The park ground near Don College is used by younger and older members of the community for everyday recreation activities. It will be sadly missed if it is developed. Not only will the community miss the green belt but so will all the native fauna. The park ground allows native animals the opportunity to graze safely for food without going close to the roads.

87 - 121 Watkinson Street is a beautiful green space enjoyed by the community. Green space is vital for health and wellbeing, we have lost much of this in recent years. This area is also home to at least 500 native species which will have nowhere else to live. As such it is vital for eco-tourism and is important to retain for the lovely views from the popular Don River railway. This area should be retained as community green space.

The site in Watkinson Street is adjacent to the Don Reserve which contains many threatened species including Southern Brown Bandicoots, Grey Goshawk and it is one of the main feeding / breeding areas for critically endangered swift parrots on the NW coast. Ideally, this site should be revegetated and incorporated into this reserve and definitely not developed.

I find it hard to believe that the oval at Watkinson street would be considered, this is a lovely oval reserve where families go to kick a ball around, people exercise their dogs, Don College kids play sports, wildlife feed on this oval, Plovers nest on this oval, isn't this what life is about enjoying the beautiful natural open spaces of Tassie you build on this land and the space is gone for ever. I know the needs of the kids are very important but surely there must be better alternatives to destroying a beautiful peaceful place that the community enjoy.

You will destroy the wildlife, nature, quality of life for all residents in the area if you chose the Devonport site - surely there is a better place that will not cause the level of disruption to wildlife and residents in surrounding streets - this part of Devonport is beautiful, peaceful - this will be removing a large green space used by Don College students and families and wildlife and building a large building that will disturb the precious equilibrium of residents and wildlife. Consider the Spreyton site!

So little open space left in Devonport.

Don Reserve is already struggling with an increasing amount of bordering housing and infrastructure having a negative effect on biodiversity. The reserve is a major asset to Devonport and is continually being compromised by urban development. I STRONGLY believe that the Spreyton site would be a much better option.

Would be detrimental to Don Reserve in the Watkinson Street area.

We need to protect all our open green spaces. Plus, the site at Spreyton allows integration programs to be conducted with the Spreyton Primary School.

Green spaces are always important to our quality of life.

Siting the school at Watkinson Street would be a backwards step for a city that is planting trees and trying to promote its green spaces. This area is widely used by a diverse range of citizens from exercisers, walking and running to bird watching and dog walking. Siting the school here would spoil the calm serenity of this peaceful area and leave fewer trees for nesting birds that are losing trees at an alarming rate. The Spreyton site is more suitable being in an area that has fewer natural trees and facilities.

I think the Spreyton location allows for a safer more user-friendly physical design.

The Don option would allow for collaboration with the college which could be so beneficial if done right.

Well done on engaging the community I look forward to seeing the progress.

I do not like the Watkinson Street location, would increase traffic in the area and green space enjoyed by locals would be lost also to use Mersey Main Road Spreyton would need netball courts to be relocated somewhere at a huge cost (and relocated where????) would also increase traffic in the area where it is already a problem. I would prefer the area close to present Support School.

The Spreyton site is definitely the most suitable location! It has so much open space and potential for development of the area! With Spreyton Primary school and the country club and the Maidstone Park sporting facility already in the area - it makes sense to have it there! It is only 2.3kms away from the existing support school- which was a very important consideration for current students, staff and families! There is already a traffic flow infrastructure in place with Bay drive access for Spreyton Netball centre.

The Watkinson Street site would be totally unsuitable!

There is no infrastructure - roads or accessibility for traffic! It is 5.5 km away from the existing support school and there is little to no traffic access onto this site!! How will the traffic flow affect the already overcrowded Don College traffic?! The loss of that green space in the area would be devastating to the community! We need to keep the little remaining green space in Devonport at all costs!

I believe Spreyton to be better site for the North West Support School. The primary school is nearby, parking options are good with there being road access from behind.

I do not support the other site at Don due to the loss of more important green space next to Don Reserve and the impact on residents with an increase in traffic volume.

The loss of the open space and surrounding trees of the Don Oval would be a negative outcome. Many people use this for peaceful recreation, and I have seen a pair of Tawny Frogmouth owls in trees there, which I was told were their permanent nesting sites. A busy school and extra traffic would also be detrimental to the surrounding residents, and to the walkers along the Don section of the cycle/walking track.

The Watkinson Street site is unsuitable due to its lack of access. No shops or facilities nearby that students can walk to. Property values will be adversely affected. Current residents of the area are elderly and are afraid of the disruption and new security concerns with the addition of potential youth crime if the facility is built here. Residents feel threatened. As a former support worker, I know that many of the students of the facility will have criminal backgrounds. The Spreyton site is close to existing sporting facilities and a supermarket etc - less residential housing in the immediate vicinity. Much more suitable.

Not a good location for young people. I want the child that I provide care for, to be closer to sporting facilities and have the ability to walk to a supermarket when asked to engage in meal preparation. Watkinson Street is too isolated. Watkinson Street provides too many areas for youths to hide in the bush etc when trying to skip school.

Watkinson Street is highly inappropriate in terms of community expectations. The area is quiet and coastal with a demographic of residents proud of their community. We don't need strangers frequenting our area.

We do not want our natural environment changed. We love the peace and tranquillity of this area that is a quiet residential gem. Keep developments such as this to non-residential areas.

Next door to Spreyton Primary - combined activities easy to organise.

Close to large gym facility in Spreyton.

Has access for buses at the back of the site.

This process is incredibly disappointing for local residents of the Watkinson (and lower James) Street site. This site is a large green space highly frequented by locals, students and visitors every day. It is a quiet area and there are a number of older residents in the area who enjoy the peaceful surrounds and abundant flora and fauna of the area. We have concerns about the short time frame that this process has taken, the limited advertising of intent to use the site, and the lack of consultation with the affected residents of the area.

I support the Spreyton site as it offers other support facilities nearby, making it an obvious choice.

The Watkinson Street site currently is a much-needed greenspace within Devonport.

Greenspace in Devonport is almost non-existent, especially in that area. Bordering on Don Reserve it provides a popular space and important part of that environment.

Losing this space would be a very sad loss as it is well known that urban greenspace provides major benefits for us all and we cannot afford to lose more.

I reside at █ Heath Court and, like so many others in the vicinity, totally oppose the Watkinson Street site for a number of reasons. Firstly, any increase in traffic on James Street (west of Nixon Street) would be a real concern. It's a narrow suburban street with current resident parking causing obstruction and often reducing traffic flow to one lane.

Secondly, the area is a hub for recreational activity (and was designed by council as such) with walking tracks and the Don College oval frequently used for such purpose. Anything that could potentially impact the existing purpose of this area is counterproductive.

I have spoken to other residents in the area, many of whom had no knowledge of this proposal, and they are unanimous in opposing the Watkinson Street site but wholeheartedly support the Spreyton site. It offers better traffic access, has no adverse effect on existing residents and provides a greater area for vehicle parking with safer access for students to any buildings.

As previously stated, many residents I spoke to late yesterday (4/7/24) had no knowledge of this proposal or the opportunity to provide feedback. Enquiries I made yesterday with DCC and the Education Department to obtain further information and detail of the proposal were in vain.

If Watkinson Street is still viewed as a viable option, it would be greatly appreciated if consideration could be given to holding an information session for the purpose of providing complete details of what is proposed.

I am submitting my objections to the proposed building of the North West Support School at The Don College campus for the following concerns:

#### Traffic

At present a dangerous area in Watkinson St for traffic and pedestrians with heavy traffic at certain times and many inexperienced P plate drivers.

More traffic with a new school would be a very significant increase.

The cul-de-sac at the end of James St should stay as a buffer for the residents of that end of James St to maintain a safe road for people and animals (there is already a lot of roadkill in this area).

Buffer for bush and wildlife and maintain an open area.

Open land is important to the school community and the local community both visually and recreationally.

A grassland area is an important food source for many animals and birds including the eastern barred bandicoot and tawny frogmouth amongst many others.

The Don reserve must be protected and not degraded because it is an extremely important environment in Devonport.

The open oval area is used by Don College students at times for school activities. The Don Railway as a significant tourist and community asset enjoys a view of this open grassland.

Once this land is built on it is gone forever.

#### Future needs for Don College?

The Don College, designed by architect John Gott, is an excellent example of brutalist architecture and one of the largest examples of the style in Devonport and Tasmania. The student population of Don College will most likely increase, and future development could require some of the available land. If the NWSS is built there then there is nowhere to expand. As it stands at the moment many of the students have been housed in demountable classrooms for decades now.

Needs and expectations of residents of the area.

A new school is not just 70 students but a lot of support staff, parents and transport needs. A quiet residential area will be significantly impacted by traffic, people, car parks and buildings replacing natural surroundings.

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Could I please have an answer to these questions:

Has The Don College staff been consulted and been given a chance to discuss their needs both present and particularly future?

Is there any expected mutual benefit and interaction from having a special school next to a senior secondary college?

Why is the Support School not given a new building near where it is currently situated. I believe there is a reserve nearby (hopefully still intact) and blocks of land available?

What will the old NWSS building site be used for?

Is the open sports ground area at Don College an assembly point in event of fire?

What arrangements would be made for traffic control in the area with a new school?

How do residents get a meaningful say in what happens when the council have already voted on this site?

What guarantees can be given that there will be no impact on the Don bush reserve and its resident birds and animals?

How does the council inform themselves on residents' views if the residents have not been given information of possible council actions?

What rights and responsibilities does the Education Department have to residents?

This land has since The Don College was built been reserved as recreation a relaxing space. If it is built on it is gone forever.

Watkinson St is not the right place for this development. The natural bush in this area should be protected and the open area provides a great area for Don College students, locals and a lovely open area for the Don Railway to travel past. This area is a good buffer from buildings, traffic etc for the natural bush and animals and birds in the bush. Open spaces are important and once built upon they are lost forever. Increased traffic in the area will be a problem for residents in the area.

1. Loss of more green open space in Devonport. An important resource for people, flora and fauna to flourish. More specifically, many nocturnal native animals feed in the Don College oval area such as wallabies, bandicoots (including the endangered Eastern Barred Bandicoot), Tawny Frogmouths and many other bird species. All of these animals are regularly sighted on and around The Don College oval.

2. Loss of a buffer zone between The Don Reserve and more adjacent urban development. An Environmental Impact assessment is needed in this regard.

3. Increased traffic movement in the area especially in James St if there is an entrance there or if James St is joined up to Watkinson St. The latter would be a very adverse outcome for local residents 24/7 constantly.

4. Opportunity lost for alternative future developments on The Don College oval. E.g. Don College expansion and recreational/sports use of the land or Devonport City Council to purchase/manage the land as public green space.

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1. The Watkinson St site is adjacent to a unique Devonport community resource, namely The Don Reserve. The large open space (oval) at the western end of James St provides a protective buffer zone between the reserve and surrounding urbanization. Further adjacent urban development would bring significant extra risk to the sustainability of the Don Reserve.

Protection of The Don Reserve needs to be a high priority for our community. It is a uniquely valuable Devonport community resource.

2. At present, there is no direct vehicular access between James St (western end) and Watkinson St (northern end). If the proposed development does go ahead, the two streets must not be joined. Such a connection would totally change the traffic flow in James St, all day and every day, to the significant detriment of households at the Western end of James St.

As long as it's got a new pool for them.

In my opinion, neither of the sites presented are suitable. The challenges identified for both sites are in opposition to the essential site search criteria. As a staff member at Don College, I am more familiar with this site and therefore my feedback is focussed from that perspective.

Road traffic on Watkinson St at the start and end of day is already hectic, an additional school will add this. Current arrangements with buses (coordinated by Department of State Growth) are already dangerous, consultation should be made with Don College leadership prior to any future development is considered. I invite you to come along and participate in Watkinson St duty at the times above to better understand the issues. Nixon St, which runs parallel to Watkinson St, has similar challenges at the primary school there too. The Mersey Main Road traffic, as identified, is no less problematic.

Don College infrastructure is aging and there have been multiple and regular problems with mains water leaks, main building heating and plumbing. The technology is old and obsolete, with limited opportunity for retrofit in an old and uniquely constructed building. There are multiple relocatable terrapin teaching spaces that have been at the college for decades. There is an opportunity cost in developing the oval, in that a much needed rebuild of the college teaching spaces is significantly restricted. The oval is the last remaining large, flat space. Existing teaching spaces - e.g. in VET construction, hospitality, automotive and engineering etc. - are already at capacity, with no opportunity for expansion in their immediate proximity. The logical solution is the building of specific learning spaces in the oval vicinity.

Current parking on the Don College site is significantly inadequate. Already, students and staff park on nearby streets alongside residential properties. The future impact to parking and nearby residents needs to be fully understood and modelling undertaken.

An essential site criterion is the absence of noise and vibration. It needs to be understood that the Don River Railway trains and regular freight trains present both, and the impact is not underestimated. From my experience, the passing of the Don River Railway train causes vibration of windows in my office, within a solid concrete building.

Desirable criterion of being close to a nearby school needs to be better defined. I understand the schools would operate independently. The site assessors need to explain the benefits.

Currently, the Don College oval is utilised during the dryer months for Physical Recreation and Outdoor Education classes. I have also used the oval for Environmental Science classes with students undertaking population estimates of native animals in the areas. It appears these learning uses has been overlooking in the site assessment.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss any of these or other issues further and can be contacted at the college [REDACTED]

We have lived at [REDACTED] Watkinson St for nearly 40 years & overlook the Don College oval.

Without seeing the design & knowing how much of the oval will be needed we don't want to rank a preferred site.

We'd be happy for the school to be there if it's not a big ugly development that we have to look out over every day.



We enjoy seeing the Don Railway train going by & people enjoying the open space there with their families, dogs, kites etc.

Must admit, we'd hate to lose this.

We also have concerns regarding the traffic load.

The intersection of Upper George & Watkinson St is already dangerous during busy times.

I hope the development plans will be available for the public to see so we have a better idea of what to expect.

Surely, there are better options than these two. Watkinson sight is surrounded by hills. Imagine trying to push a loved one up those in a chair. The Spreyton site is too busy traffic wise and where would you park. Also, where would the proposed site be for the netball courts.

## EMAIL SUBMISSIONS

### Site B first preference

I am writing on behalf of [REDACTED] to provide our feedback on the proposed development of the NW Support School site at Don College.

After thorough discussion and review, we have several concerns that we believe need to be addressed to ensure the best outcomes for students and community if the proposed site at Don College is chosen as the preferred location for the NW Support School – Devonport Campus.

**Integration:** A key topic of discussion was the potential integration of the new NW Support School with Don College. While integration could offer opportunities for collaboration and resource sharing, there is a significant risk of creating a divided, co-located campus. We seek clarification on whether integration is part of the plan, and if so, how it will be implemented to maximise benefits while minimising any negative impacts to all students.

**Road Safety Concerns:** We are deeply concerned about the increased traffic flow and associated safety risks that the new development would bring. The addition of potentially more than 100 extra vehicles poses a substantial safety risk to students and the community. Furthermore, students have reported feeling unsafe at Watkinson Street and Don Road junction, which could be exacerbated by increased traffic. We urge DECYP to conduct a comprehensive traffic impact assessment and to implement robust measures to ensure road safety for all staff and students.

**Loss of Oval:** The current oval is a vital shared space used by both the community and students for physical education and recreational activities. Its loss would be significantly detrimental to student participating in physical education classes. Reduced sports and recreation spaces would lead to increased expenses for accessing external facilities and transportation for Don College students. We request that alternatives be explored to preserve this essential resource or to provide equivalent facilities.

**Educational Gains:** We are interested in understanding the educational opportunities that this new development could bring for Don College students. Specifically, we seek information on potential Vocational Education and Training (VET) opportunities and how current barriers to placements could be removed to support community service placements in particular.

**Limited Future Development:** The new build could limit future development opportunities for Don College due to already constrained space. This includes the lack of land space, with increasing enrolments, and the presence of outdated and temporary buildings that are in major need of replacement there is a real need for major infrastructure works at Don College. We are concerned that the NW Support School build will remove any growth opportunities for the school.

In conclusion, while we recognise the potential benefits of a co-located NW Support School at Don College, the concerns and potential losses are too great for [REDACTED] to endorse further

consideration of the site. [REDACTED] overwhelmingly supports the exploration of the Spreyton Primary School adjacent site as the preferred development site for the new NW Support School.

Thank you for considering our feedback. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

[REDACTED] welcomes the Tasmanian Government's commitment of \$62.15 million for a major redevelopment of the North-West Support School (NWSS) including a redevelopment of the Devonport campus on a new site. A purpose-build school is a much-needed update to the current facility and will be greatly beneficial to our community.

One of the two proposed sites is located adjacent to Spreyton Primary School at 3-9 Mersey Main Road, Spreyton. We recognise that this site meets many of the essential and desirable criteria required for a site in the Devonport area, while both sites have unique challenges and benefits that have been noted in the proposal.

If this site is chosen as the new home for the NWSS in Devonport, [REDACTED] would be eager to work collaboratively with the NWSS, Devonport City Council, DECYP and the Department of State Growth to ensure mutually beneficial outcomes for both school communities including opportunities for student engagement and collaboration between school associations.

We note that consideration would need to be given to traffic management and safety due to increased traffic on Mersey Main Road which is congested at school drop-off and pick-up times.

We are writing to you with regard to the proposed site for the NW Support School.

We feel this is not the best site for this development for a number of reasons.

From the information I have seen it appears to be a huge structure in an area that is relatively small and enclosed, not to mention the traffic bottleneck it would create in an established school and residential area.

It will have a negative impact on wildlife and fauna in the surrounding nature reserve throughout the build and after completion and will also be an eyesore for tourists on the Don River Railway.

I am aware the oval itself is not a nature reserve, but I think it would be inconsiderate to take away an undeveloped parkland at this end of the city that is used by the general public, students from the college and residents.

I have spoken to teachers and students from the college, and they consider it to be their oval for outdoor education and other sporting events and should not be taken away from them.

Once again, it appears the lack of consultation with the College staff and students is very inconsiderate. Also, I don't think there has been enough communication or information provided to residents affected in the area either.

From what I have been told Don College is in desperate need of more land to expand its classes and, to do this, would not take up anywhere near the amount of acreage as the Support School.

It seems like an easy option for the council to approve the development at this site, but I think the Spreyton site would be better, having less impact on the area.

Also, I think there would probably be a number of other sites better suited with less impact on the surrounding areas.

We are very passionate about this issue, for obvious reasons being residents in the area, but we think it is not a good decision to take away a beautiful greenspace area that is used by the college, general public and residents.

As for the college students and the theme of "Keeping Kids in Sport" it would be a shame for them to lose their oval to this development.

We look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

We live at [REDACTED] right across the road from the proposed site for the new NW Support School.

We are aware that the Local Council had two locations to consider, one in Spreyton and one in Devonport. Council has determined the Devonport location as its preferred site, which is the oval next to Don College - we implore council and State Govt (namely the Dept of Education) to reconsider using the Don College/Devonport Oval as the site for the new school and to select a site with as little impact as possible on the environment, wildlife, local families and elderly residents.

The Spreyton site is already set up for high traffic volumes which our quite little cul-de-sac is not - there is no impact on wildlife and minimal disruption to residents in that area.

Whereas homeowners around the Devonport Oval site will see their home values decrease, and in this economy, our elderly residents who are just wanting a secure and peaceful life do not deserve this.

The wildlife will be disrupted and displaced - and one of the last green spaces in Devonport will be gone! Numbers of wallabies, bandicoots and rabbits use the Devonport Oval as a feeding ground and there are many different bird species living in the trees surrounding the oval that will be distressed.

This peaceful strip of Watkinson St is residence to ratepayers, elderly owner occupiers and other families who should not have their quality of life destroyed, not just by this new building, but by the long, noisy build process. At no time have we been consulted, or do we understand the impact on our peaceful lives that this building will have.

We, the residents to be impacted, would like the opportunity to meet with you and discuss this process further.