



Education & Communities

Joshua Townsend
Planning Reform Unit
Planning and Regulation
Tweed Shire Council
PO Box 816
Murwillumbah NSW 2484

Your ref: Pottsville School Facilities
GT1/DPC/B15

Dear Joshua

Pottsville Beach School Facilities.

As requested in your letter 20 November 2012 please find attached a copy of the Department of Education and Communities updated analysis of the secondary school enrolment demand for students living in the Pottsville area based on the DEC's enrolment records and the 2011 census results.

This analysis indicates that the number of secondary school students living in Pottsville has been relatively stable in recent years and shows there is not enough demographic demand to require another government secondary school in the Tweed Coast Local Government Area

In February 2012 I became aware of the proposal to develop a non-government primary school in Charles Street Pottsville. It is understood development consent for this school has been issued by Tweed Council and will provide a second primary school to accommodate students from the Pottsville area.

An analysis indicates that the number of primary school students living in Pottsville is not sufficient to require a third primary school at this point in time.

I will continue to monitor education needs in the Pottsville area and in consultation with Tweed Shire Council, continue to explore as a priority the identification of a future primary school site in the Dunloe Park Release Area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the planning proposal. The Department requests that the Council continues to inform the Department of any significant changes to the plans, new land rezoning and any new significant residential subdivisions in the area. Significant changes and/or new developments may warrant further analysis and investigations for essential education infrastructure.

If you have any queries in regards to this matter please contact Mr Greg Eyears, Regional Asset Planner, North Coast (ph: 02 66261014 or Email: gregory.eyears1@det.nsw.edu.au).

Yours sincerely

Greg Eyears
Department of Education & Communities
Regional Asset Planner
December 2012

Pottsville (Tweed LGA): Secondary school enrolment demand

Assessment of the number of government secondary students living in the Pottsville area, in Tweed Local Government Area, based on the DEC's enrolment records and the 2011 census results.

Key information

The number of government secondary school students living in the suburb of Pottsville has been relatively stable in recent years, as shown in Table 1. Over the last three years there has been, on average, 300 students living in Pottsville and attending a government high school.

Table 1: DEC secondary students living in Pottsville

Enrolment Year	Grade						Total
	7	8	9	10	11	12	
2008	51	47	38	48	20	19	223
2009	66	56	47	39	42	19	269
2010	66	69	66	48	40	37	326
2011	51	61	61	52	37	31	293
2012	46	44	61	62	47	30	290

Source: DEC Asset Management System, ERN records

Ninety per cent of these students attend Kingscliff High School, with a small number attending Murwillumbah High School and Southern Cross Distance Education Centre. These patterns are shown in Table 2, which includes the average distance travelled by all students from Pottsville who travel to these high schools. Thus, for example, students who live in Pottsville and attend Kingscliff High School travel an average 18 kilometres to school.

Table 2: Secondary school attended by students living in Pottsville

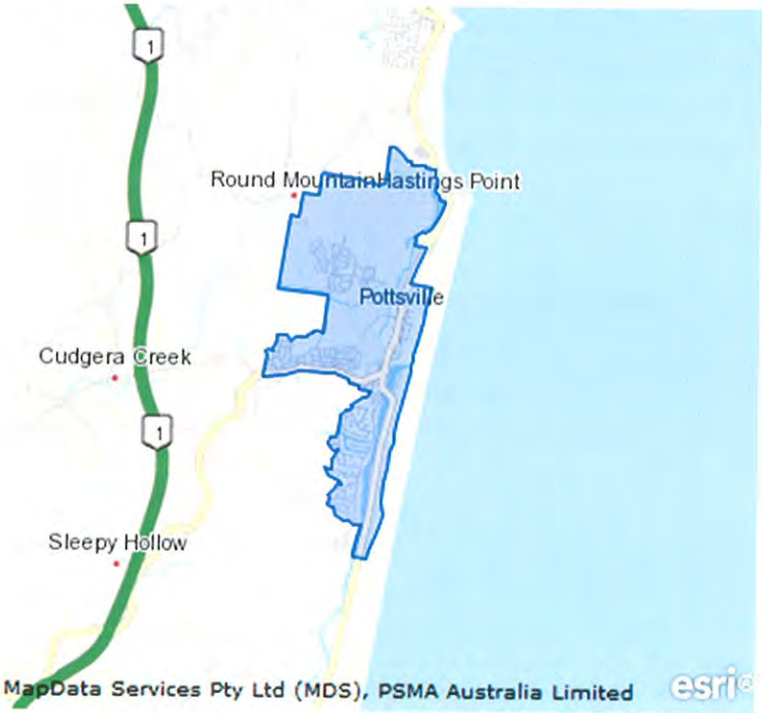
Government high school attending	Enrolment Year					Av. distance travelled by students in 2012 (km)
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
Banora Point High School	5	5	2	1	1	16.9
Byron Bay High School			2			
Caldera School					1	17.0
Kingscliff High School	203	249	291	265	264	18.2
Melville High School					1	15.7
Mullumbimby High School	1	3	4	3	3	17.8
Murwillumbah High School	8	5	9	7	8	18.5
Nimbin Central School				2		
Richmond River High School				1	1	17.8
Southern Cross Distance Ed Centre			5	3	7	20.8
Tweed River High School	2	1	1			
Wollumbin High School	4	6	12	10	3	21.9
Woolgoolga High School				1	1	15.6
Total	223	269	326	293	290	18.2

Source: DEC Asset Management System, ERN records

These figures are consistent with the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011 Census of Population and Housing results for the state suburb of Pottsville (refer Figure 1). The Census records 356 students attending a secondary school, with 272 (76 per cent) attending a government school.

The population characteristics by age and sex do not indicate any significant increase in secondary students in Pottsville in the future, based on existing dwelling stock.

Figure 1: Area covered by Pottsville suburb



Recommendation

That this information be noted, and the impact on utilisation at Kingscliff High School from the removal of Pottsville students be considered.

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13 Dec 12
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