Social Impact Assessment (SIA) – New High School for Jordan Springs

Prepared for
Department of Education

December 2024

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Authorship and Declaration

This report has been prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced lead author and reviewed and approved by a suitably qualified and experienced co-author, who hold appropriate qualifications and have relevant experience in social science or related areas. The authors' qualifications, experience and demonstrated understanding of social impacts are outlined below:

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Experience	Author on 40+ Social Impact Assessments since 2021.

The author declares that this SIA report:

- Was completed on 19 December 2024
- Has been prepared in accordance with all relevant statutory requirements
- Contains all reasonably available and relevant information
- Was completed with an understanding of the authors' legal and ethical obligations
- Does not contain information that is false or misleading.

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1 Introduction

This Social Impact Assessment has been prepared to accompany a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) for the Department of Education (DoE) for the construction and operation of a New High School for Jordan Springs (the activity) under Part 5 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act) and *State Environmental Planning Policy (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021* (SEPP TI).

This report examines and takes into account the relevant environmental factors in the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulations 2021* under Section 170, Section 171 and Section 171A of the EP&A Regulation as outlined in **Table 1.**

Table 1: Summary of Relevant Section of EP&A Regulation

Regulation	Requirement	Response	Report Section
Regulations s 171(2)(a)	Consider social, economic and cultural impacts as part of environmental factors	This SIA has comprehensively addressed the way in which environmental factors intersect with social, economic and cultural impacts.	Refer to Section 5.3 for a comprehensive impact assessment of key social impacts. These are cross-referenced to the relevant regulation section.
Regulations s 171(2)(b)	Consider human and non-human environment as part of transformation of a locality		
Regulations s 171(2)(d)	Consider any reduction of the aesthetic, recreational, scientific or other environmental quality or value of a locality		
Regulations s 171(2)(e)	Consider any effect on a locality, place or building having cultural or social significance or other special value for present or future generations, including social/community values and significance		
Regulations s 171(2)(h)	Consider any long-term effects on the environment, including social and economic.		
Regulations s 171(2)(i)	Consider any degradation of the quality of the environment, including social and economic		
Regulations s 171(2)(j)	Consider any risk to the safety of the environment, including public health		

1.1 Proposed activity description

The proposed activity for the construction and operation of a New High School for Jordan Springs is proposed to have a capacity of 1,000 students and 80 staff to meet forecast enrolment demand associated with population growth in Jordan Springs and Ropes Crossing. The school will provide permanent General Learning Spaces (GLS), Support Learning Spaces (SLS), staff facilities and a library across three (3), three storey buildings, a single storey hall, half playing field, three (3) outdoor sport courts, 72 operational at grade parking spaces (including two (2) accessible spaces), 100 bicycle spaces and landscaping.

Public domain works and the off-site OSD Basin are to be constructed by others under separate planning pathways.

1.2 Proposed activity scenarios

The activity scope of works includes two (2) Scenarios, to allow construction and operation of the school, with (Scenario 1 – preferred option) or without (Scenario 2 – Interim Solution) the public domain works and permanent off-site basin being constructed by others under a separate planning pathway.

1.2.1 Scenario 1 – Preferred Option - Road Network completed and permanent OSD Basin Constructed

- **External works undertaken by others to facilitate Scenario 1**
  - Construction of Park Edge Road;
  - Any adjustments to Infantry Street;
  - Kiss and drop zone along Park Edge Road;
  - Support drop off zone located along Infantry Street; and
  - Construction and operation of OSD Basin off site.

Note – Scenario 1 is not to proceed if external works undertaken by others is not completed.

- Scenario 1
  - Construction and Operation of the New High School for Jordan Springs, including:
    - Decommissioning of existing on-site OSD basin;
    - Earthworks;
    - Three (3) multi-storey classroom buildings;
    - One (1) school hall;
    - Three (3) outdoor sport's courts;
    - One (1) sport's field;
    - 72 at grade car parking spaces, including two (2) accessible parking spaces, and waste services, accessed via Park Edge Road;
    - 100 bicycle parking spaces across; and
    - Landscaping.

1.2.2 Scenario 2 - Interim Solution – Road network not completed, Permanent OSD Basin not constructed.

- **Scenario 2 - Stage 1**
  - Construction and operation of the New High School for Jordan Springs, including;
    - Construction of temporary OSD Basin;
    - Earthworks;
    - Three (3) multi-storey classroom buildings;
    - One (1) sport's field;
    - Temporary carpark - 72 at grade car parking spaces, including two (2) accessible parking spaces and waste services, located on the northwest corner of the site, accessed off Armoury Road;
    - 100 bicycle parking spaces across;
    - Temporary Kiss and drop facilities on Armoury Road; and
    - Associated landscaping.

- **Scenario 2 - Stage 2**
  Stage 2 is not to be undertaken until the temporary OSD basin under stage 1 works is completed and operational.
  - Decommissioning of existing on-site OSD basin, prior to the following works being undertaken:
    - 72 at grade car parking spaces, including two (2) accessible parking spaces, and waste services, located on the southeast corner of the site. This car park cannot be constructed until the decommissioning of the existing OSD basin is completed and will be non-operational with no road connection until completion of Scenario 2 – Stage 3;
    - One (1) school hall;
    - Three (3) outdoor sport's courts; and
    - Associated landscaping.

- **External works undertaken by others to facilitate Stage 3**
  - Construction of Park Edge Road;
  - Any adjustments to Infantry Street;
  - Kiss and drop zone along Park Edge Road;

- Support kiss and drop zone located along Infantry Street; and
- Construction and operation of OSD Basin off site

Note – Scenario 2 - Stage 3 is not to proceed until the external works undertaken by others have been completed.

- **Scenario 2 - Stage 3**
  - Connection of the southeast carpark to Park Edge Road;
  - Rectification works along Armoury Road to remove temporary kiss and drop facilities and cross over for temporary carpark;
  - Demolition of temporary carpark, once permanent car park is operational; and
  - Decommissioning of temporary OSD basin.

1.3 Activity Site

The activity site is located on the corner of Armoury Road and Infantry Street in Jordan Springs and is legally described as part of Lots 2 and 3 in DP 1248480.

Figure 1 provides an aerial photograph of the activity site, outlines the boundaries of the activity site (in red) and the boundaries of Lots 2 and 3 in DP 1248480 (in blue).

The activity site is within the Central Precinct of the St Mary's Release Area in the Penrith Local Government Area.

Figure 1: Aerial photograph

Source: (Nearmap, 202

1.4 Other Approvals

External works and construction of the off-site OSD Basin are to be constructed by others.

2 Methodology

SIA comprises a number of key phases that relate to:

- Developing an understanding of the social context and area of influence of an activity
- The scoping of issues of importance and interest to key stakeholders and local communities
- An assessment and evaluation of social impacts that may occur as a result of a proposed activity
- The identification of strategies to address negative impacts and enhance positive impacts.

Further, SIA, when informed by local communities and stakeholders, affords opportunities to effectively identify, integrate and address social impacts of activities within planning, design, and development processes. This section outlines the key activities undertaken within each of these phases.

2.1 Assessment Requirements

This SIA has been prepared with reference to the Project's REF requirements (refer to Section 1 above).

Social impacts are the consequences that people experience when a new activity brings change. These can include changes across:

- Way of life
- Accessibility
- Community
- Culture
- Livelihoods
- Decision-making systems
- Surroundings
- Health and wellbeing.

Two main types of social impacts may arise as a result of the proposed activity:

- Direct impacts can be caused by the Activity which may cause changes to the existing community, as measured using social indicators, such as population, health and employment.
- Indirect impacts that are generally less tangible and more commonly related to matters such as community values, identity and sense of place. Both physically observable as well as psychological impacts need to be considered.

2.2 Social Locality

The social locality was defined by examining the nature of the activity, the spatial characteristics of proximate communities and how positive and negative impacts may be reasonably perceived or experienced by different people across different geographical areas. The following factors influenced the development of the proposed social locality:

- The likely school catchment of the school, once operational
- The extent of immediately perceived impacts relating to construction.

The social locality comprises different Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) Statistical Geographies and is stratified across different geographical levels to allow for detailed comparative analysis. These levels are:

- **Primary study area:** the 12403170812 SA1 boundary representing the primary community likely to directly experience impacts relating to construction and amenity.
- **Secondary study area:** Jordan Springs SAL and Ropes Crossing SAL.
- **Tertiary study area:** Greater Sydney (GCCSA)

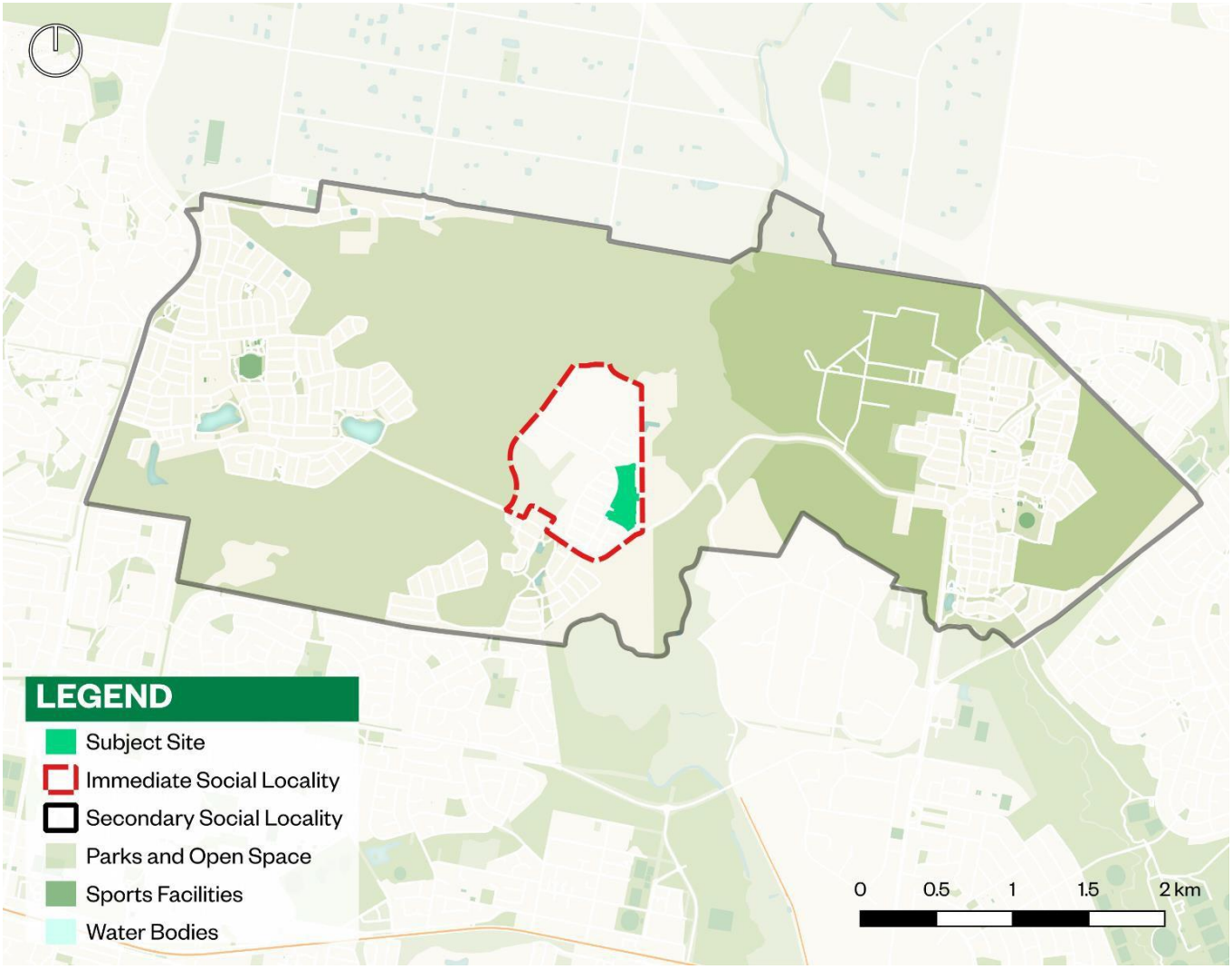

Figure 2: Social locality

Source: (Author, 2024)

2.3 Social Baseline Profile

A social baseline profile gathers knowledge from both primary and secondary data sources to inform an understanding of the existing social environment in which an Activity is proposed and of potentially affected communities. The social baseline profile is a foundational component of SIA as it provides the basis for which social impacts associated with the Activity may be predicted, assessed, monitored, and managed over time.

The key components of a social baseline profile include:

- The scale and nature of the Activity.
- Who may be affected, including identification of any vulnerable or marginalised groups.
- Any built or natural features on or near the Activity.
- Relevant social, cultural, and demographic trends and other change processes.
- The history of the proposed Activity and/or development in the area, including community response to previous change.

2.3.1 Data Sources

To gain an understanding of the demographic characteristics and composition of communities within the social locality and to ascertain how the Activity may change or affect people, socio-economic and demographic data has been gathered and summarised from key publicly available datasets, including the ABS Census (2021) and the Social Health Atlas of Australia (PHIDU, 2020), as well as through a literature review of local and State government strategic plans and local media.

The following list of plans and reports have been reviewed to prepare this Social Impact Assessment:

- *NSW Design Guide for Schools (dated May 2018)*
- *Noise and Vibration Assessment Report (dated ### 2024)*
- *Preliminary Construction Management Plan (dated ### 2024)*
- *Transport Impact Assessment (dated December 2024)*
- *Preliminary Construction Management Plan (dated December 2024)*
- *Landscape REF (dated December 2024)*

2.4 Social Impact Evaluation

The social impacts associated with the Activity have been evaluated by assigning ratings based on the characteristics of social magnitude used in the impact evaluation, as outlined in **Section 5.**

Both technical ratings and stakeholder perceptions of impacts are assessed. The integration of the outcomes of technical ranking (severity/scale) with stakeholder perceived ranking of impacts (intensity or importance), thus affords a true integration of expert and local knowledge in SIA and enables both types of risk to be addressed in the development of impact mitigation, amelioration, and enhancement strategies.

Prioritising impacts in this integrated manner ensures that appropriate assessment and mitigation strategies can be developed that not only address impacts that may require more technical management, but also those impacts that are perceived by stakeholders as of high importance/concern. These perceived concerns are just as important to manage as they have the potential to result in elevated levels of community concerns, complaints and grievances if not addressed appropriately.

Section 5 provides an evaluation of the significance of each potential negative and positive social impact. The assessment includes the consideration of the **social significance** of each impact across the suite of factors, including the **likelihood** of each identified impact, along with the envisaged **duration, extent, and potential to mitigate/ enhance**.

Magnitude of impact generally considers the following dimensions:

- **Extent:** Who specifically is expected to be affected (directly, indirectly, and/or cumulatively), including any vulnerable people? Which location(s) and people are affected? (e.g., near neighbours, local, regional, future generations)?
- **Duration:** When is the social impact expected to occur? Will it be time-limited (e.g., over particular proposal phases) or permanent?
- **Severity or scale:** What is the likely scale or degree of change? (e.g., mild, moderate, severe)?
- **Intensity or importance:** How sensitive/vulnerable (or how adaptable/resilient) are affected people to the impact, or (for positive impacts) how important is it to them? This might depend on the value they attach to the matter; whether it is rare/unique or replaceable; the extent to which it is tied to their identity; and their capacity to cope with or adapt to change?
- **Level of concern/interest:** How concerned/interested are people? Sometimes, concerns may be disproportionate to findings from technical assessments of likelihood, duration and/or intensity.

Each impact is assigned an overall **significance rating**, which considers both the **likelihood** of the impact occurring and the **consequences** should the impact occur. The assessment also sets out recommended **mitigation, management and monitoring measures** for the identified impacts.

3 Social Baseline

3.1.1 Population Size and Growth

The population of the Primary Study Area was 689 people at the 2021 Census.[1] This is an increase from 0 people at the 2016 Census.[2] The combined population of the Secondary Study Area (Jordan Springs SAL and Ropes Crossing SAL) was 19,054 at the 2021 Census.[3] This is a significant increase from 11,330 at the 2016 Census[4].

3.1.2 Age Profile

Data regarding the age distribution within a population can provide insights into potential needs, values and vulnerabilities within communities. For instance, individuals under the age of four and those aged 65 and above are generally considered more susceptible to health impacts, while older populations may exhibit less adaptability to change.

In 2021, the median age of the population in Primary Study Area was 29 years old.[7] The is younger than the median age of 30 in Jordan Springs SAL[8] and 31 in Ropes Crossing SAL[9] and 37 in Greater Sydney GCCSA.[10] This reflects a high proportion of younger people, and is commensurate with the high proportion of families with younger children in the locality.

The largest five-year range age groups in the Primary Study Area in 2021 were 30-34 years (17%), 25-29 years (15%), 0-4 years (15%), 35-39 years (13%) and 5-9 years (10%).[11] This trend has also been reflected within the Secondary Study Area where the largest five-year range age group was

35-39 years (12%), 0-4 years (12%), 30-34 years (12%), 5-9 years (11%) and 40-44 years (8%). This indicates that there will be a future demand for a new high school to be built as two of the five largest ages groups within both the Primary Study Area and Secondary Study Area will reach high school age within 3-12 years.

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[1] ABS 2021 Census, *12403170812 SA1 - QuickStats*

[2] Note: The applicable SA1 was a new boundary for the 2021 Census. Nearmap imagery dated 2 December 2016 demonstrates no residential development is present within the area.

[3] ABS 2021 Census, *Jordan Springs SAL – QuickStats*, *Ropes Crossing SAL – QuickStats*

[4] ABS 2016 Census, *Jordan Springs SSC – QuickStats*, *Ropes Crossing SSC – QuickStats*. Note: Jordan Springs East at the time of the Census was part of Llandilo SSC. Nearmap imagery dated 2 December 2016 demonstrates no residential development is present within the area.

[5] ABS 2021 Census, *Greater Sydney GCCSA – QuickStats*

[6] ABS 2016 Census, *Greater Sydney GCCSA – QuickStats*

[7] ABS 2021 Census, *12403170812 SA1– Community Profile*

[8] ABS 2021 Census, *Jordan Springs SAL – Community Profile*

[9] ABS 2021 Census, *Ropes Crossing SAL – Community Profile*

[10] ABS 2021 Census, *Greater Sydney GCCSA – Community Profile*

[11] ABS 2021 Census, *Age in Five Year Groups*, Table Builder, Findings based on use of ABS TableBuilder data

3.1.3 Housing and households

Household composition

The average household size in the Primary Study Area was 3.3 in 2021.[12] This is slightly smaller than the average household size of 3.2 in the Jordan Springs SAL[13] and 2.7 in Greater Sydney.[14] Approximately 85% of households in the Primary Study Area were made up of one-family households, lower than the Secondary Study Area (83%) and the Greater Sydney GCCSA (60%).

Table 2: Household composition

Household Composition	Primary Study Area	Secondary Study Area	Greater Sydney GCCSA
One family household – Couple family with no children	56 (27%)	1,048 (19%)	437,503 (21%)
One family household – Couple family with children	114 (55%)	3,009 (53%)	629,370 (30%)
One family household – One parent family	6 (3%)	636 (11%)	187,649 (9%)
Two or three family households (with or without children)	4 (2%)	186 (3%)	50,109 (2%)
Lone person household	12 (6%)	658 (12%)	424,713 (20%)
Group household	9 (4.3%)	105 (2%)	76,558 (4%)

Household tenure and cost

The median weekly rent in the Primary Study Area was $545 in 2021.[15] This is above the median weekly rent in Jordan Springs ($530)[16] and Ropes Crossing ($480)[17] and Greater Sydney ($470).[18] About 18.5% of residents experienced rental stress in the SA1 which is lower than Jordan

[12] ABS 2021 Census, *12403170812 SA1 – Community Profile*

[13] ABS 2021 Census, *Jordan Springs SAL – Community Profile*

[14] ABS 2021 Census, *Greater Sydney GCCSA – Community Profile*

[15] ABS 2021 Census, *12403170812 SA1 – Community Profile*

[16] ABS 2021 Census, *Jordan Springs SAL – Community Profile*

[17] ABS 2021 Census, *Ropes Crossing SAL – Community Profile*

[18] ABS 2021 Census, *Greater Sydney GCCSA – Community Profile*

Springs SAL (27.4%)[19], Ropes Crossing SAL (26.2%)[20] and the Greater Sydney GCCSA (35.3%).[21] Rental stress, often characterised by households spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs, is a potential concern within the Secondary Study Area.

3.1.4 Socio-economic Factors

Household income

In 2021, the median weekly household income in the Primary Study Area was $2,727.[22] This was higher than the median household income for Jordan Springs SAL ($2,484), [23] Ropes Crossing SAL ($2,216) and Greater Sydney ($2,077).[24] This indicates a degree of socio-economic advantage in the Primary Study Area when comparing to the Secondary Study Area and the Greater Sydney Region averages.

Resident Workforce

Of the residents over 15 years old in the Primary Study Area, there were 353 people employed – either part-time, full-time or away from work – at the time of the 2021 Census.[25] This accounts for approximately 99% of the labour force in the SA1. Approximately 1% of the labour force was unemployed, which is lower than the rate for Jordan Springs SAL (4%),[26] Ropes Crossing SAL (5%)[27] and Greater Sydney (5%).[28] The figures indicate that the Primary Study Area and the Secondary Study Area exhibit a relatively lower employment rate than the Greater Sydney region.

Of the residents living within Primary Study Area, most were employed in Health Care and Social Assistance (20%); Construction (12%); Retail Trade (9%), Financial and Insurance Services (9%); and Public Administration and Safety (8%) industries.[29]

Access and movement

In 2021, approximately 92% of residents commuting from Primary Study Area to work travelled via a vehicle, either as a driver or passenger, while only 8% opted for public transport.[30] Of these private modes, 100% were completed by car. This reflects the local study area's high level of dependence on private vehicle travel, most commonly cars. The Secondary Study Area reflected similar trends of high

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[19] ABS 2021 Census, *Jordan Springs SAL – Community Profile*

[20] ABS 2021 Census, *Ropes Crossing SAL – Community Profile*

[21] ABS 2021 Census, *Greater Sydney GCCSA – Community Profile*

[22] ABS 2021 Census, *12403170812 SA1 – Community Profile*

[23] ABS 2021 Census, *Jordan Springs SAL – Community Profile*

[24] ABS 2021 Census, *Greater Sydney GCCSA – Community Profile*

[25] ABS 2021 Census, *12403170812 SA1 – Community Profile*

[26] ABS 2021 Census, *Jordan Springs SAL – Community Profile*

[27] ABS 2021 Census, *Ropes Crossing SAL – Community Profile*

[28] ABS 2021 Census, *Greater Sydney GCCSA – Community Profile*

[29] ABS 2021, *Industry of Employment*, Table Builder, Findings based on use of ABS TableBuilder data

[30] ABS 2021, *Method of Travel to Work*, Table Builder, Findings based on use of ABS TableBuilder data

vehicle usage, with 91% of residents commuting from the LGA to work, while 7% preferred public transport and 1% for active transport.[31]

3.1.5 Vulnerable communities

Socio-Economic Index for Area (SEIFA)

Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) is a tool designed to evaluate the welfare of Australian communities. These indexes are developed by the ABS, derived from the five-yearly Census of Population and Housing and are calculated through principal component analysis. The index of relative socio-economic advantage and disadvantage, presented in Table 3 represents a spectrum from advantage (high values) to disadvantage (low values), based on Census variables.

Table 3: SEIFA Index

Advantages and Disadvantages			
Location	**Score**	**Decile**	**Percentile**
Primary Study Area	1,109	9	86
Secondary Study Area (Jordan Springs SAL)	1,074	10	91

SEIFA results reveal that the Primary Study Area is within the top 14% most advantaged SA1s in Australia, with the Jordan Springs SAL being within the top 9% whilst Ropes Crossing is within the top 37% of most advantaged suburbs in Australia. This indicates that both areas exhibit favourable socio-economic conditions relative to other suburbs and LGAs nationwide, likely characterised by higher average incomes, better access to education and employment opportunities, and enhanced infrastructure.

Need for assistance (Disability)

Disability can restrict mobility, employment opportunities and access to financial resources. The need for assistance dataset provides insights into the disability status of individuals in the local study area by identifying the proportion of people who require help with core activities (self-care, mobility, and communication) due to a disability, long-term illness or advanced age.

Approximately 3% of the Primary Study Area is reporting to have a need for assistance with core activities in 2021. This was slightly lower to that reported of Secondary Study Area (4%) and slightly lower than Greater Sydney (5%).[32] This indicates that the local study area does not have a substantial proportion of people in need of assistance.

Health

Long term health conditions can restrict a person's ability to gain or retain employment as well as increase their vulnerability to changes in their local environment and from expected construction

[31] ABS 2021, *Method of Travel to Work*, Table Builder, Findings based on use of ABS TableBuilder data

[32] ABS 2021, *Core Activity Need for Assistance*, Table Builder, Findings based on use of ABS TableBuilder data

impacts. The count of selected long-term health conditions dataset provides insight into the number of long-term health conditions a person has reported to have in the local study area by identifying the proportion of people who suffer from arthritis, asthma, cancer (including remission), dementia (including Alzheimer's), diabetes (including gestational diabetes), heart disease (including heart attack or angina), kidney disease, lung condition (including COPD or emphysema), mental health condition (including depression or anxiety) or stroke.

Approximately 12% of the Primary Study Area is reporting to have one condition and approximately 2% to have two or more long-term health conditions.[33] This was slightly lower than what was reported for the Secondary Study Area (15% and 5%)[34] and Greater Sydney (17% and 7%).[35]

3.2 Social infrastructure

3.2.1 Community and cultural facilities

There are a number of social infrastructure and community facilities within the Secondary Social Locality. Social infrastructure potentially impacted by the proposal may include those in close proximity to the proposal site. However, it is also important to consider the facilities located in the broader study area.

Tabe 4, supported by Figure 3, outlines the social infrastructure, services and facilities within the Secondary Social Locality. The majority of these facilities are considered to have a local reach, as their users will predominantly come from the local study area (e.g. schools, places of worship, hospitals and nursing homes).

Table 4: Itemised social infrastructure and community facilities

Map Ref.	Type	Name
1	Retirement Village	Rochford Place
2	Primary School	Ropes Crossing Public School
3	Primary School	Jordan Springs Public School
4	Shopping Centre	Jordan Springs Shopping Mall
5	Community Facility	Jordan Springs Community Hub

[33] ABS 2021 Census, *12403170812 SA1 – Community Profile*

[34] ABS 2021, *Count of Selected Long-term Health Conditions*, Table Builder, Findings based on use of ABS TableBuilder data

[35] ABS 2021 Census, *Greater Sydney GCCSA – Community Profile*

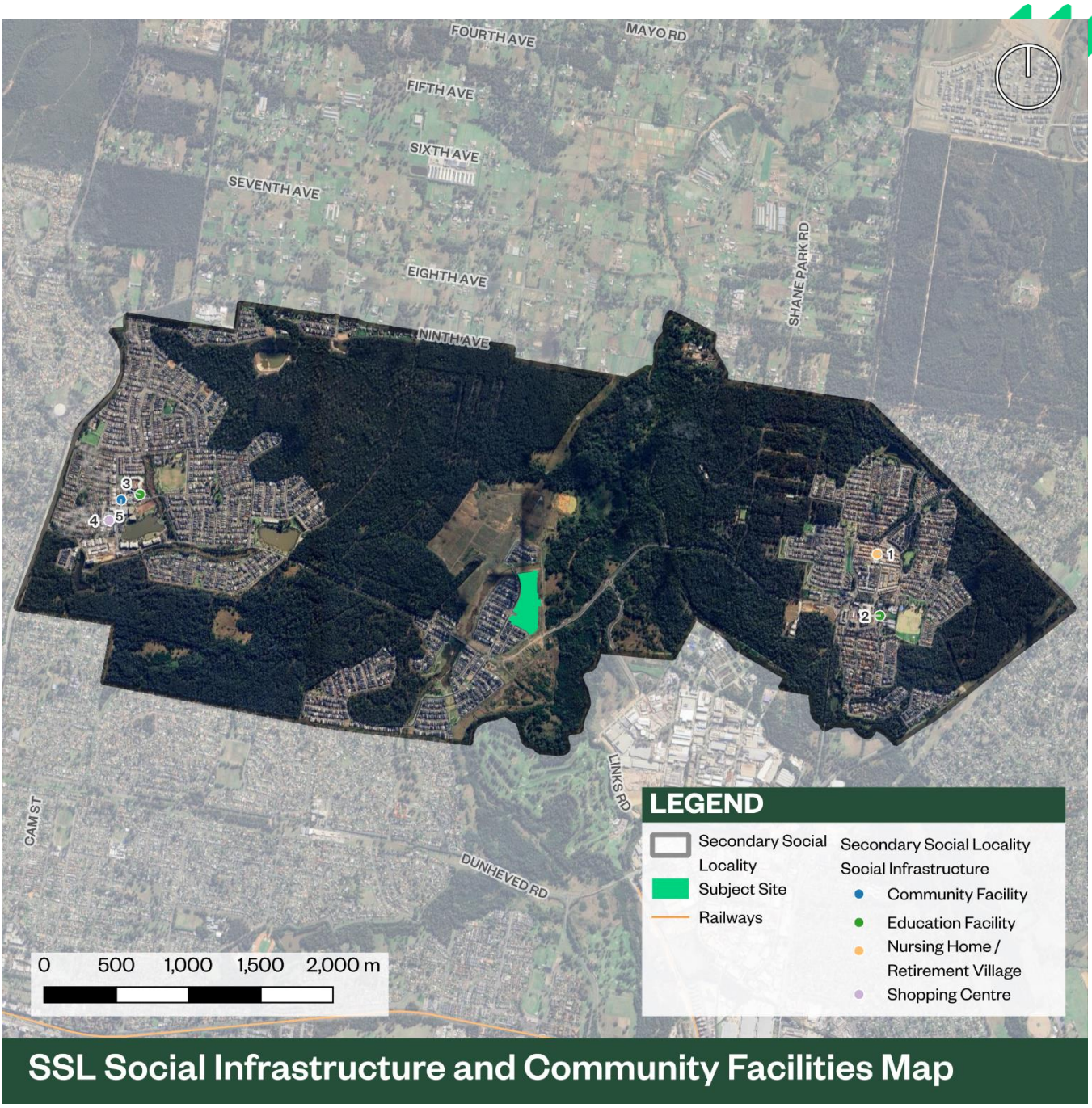

Figure 3: Social infrastructure and community facilities near the proposal site

Source: (Author, 2024)

3.2.2 Existing Open space and recreation

The Secondary Social Locality feature a variety of open spaces and recreational areas. Open spaces potentially impacted by the proposal include those near the activity as well as those in the broader catchment area.

Table 5 details the specific sports facilities close to the site within the Secondary Social Locality. Figure 4 present an overview of open spaces and sports facilities across the Secondary Social Locality. These areas primarily cater to the local community (e.g., local parks, sports courts and sports fields).

Table 5: Itemised sports facilities in the Secondary Social Locality

Map Ref.	Type	Name
6	Sports Field	JORDAN SPRINGS VILLAGE OVAL
7	Sports Field	THE NORTHERN ROAD OVAL
8	Sports Court	SPORTS COURT
9	Sports Field	SPORTS FIELD
10	Sports Court	SPORTS COURT
11	Sports Court	SPORTS COURT

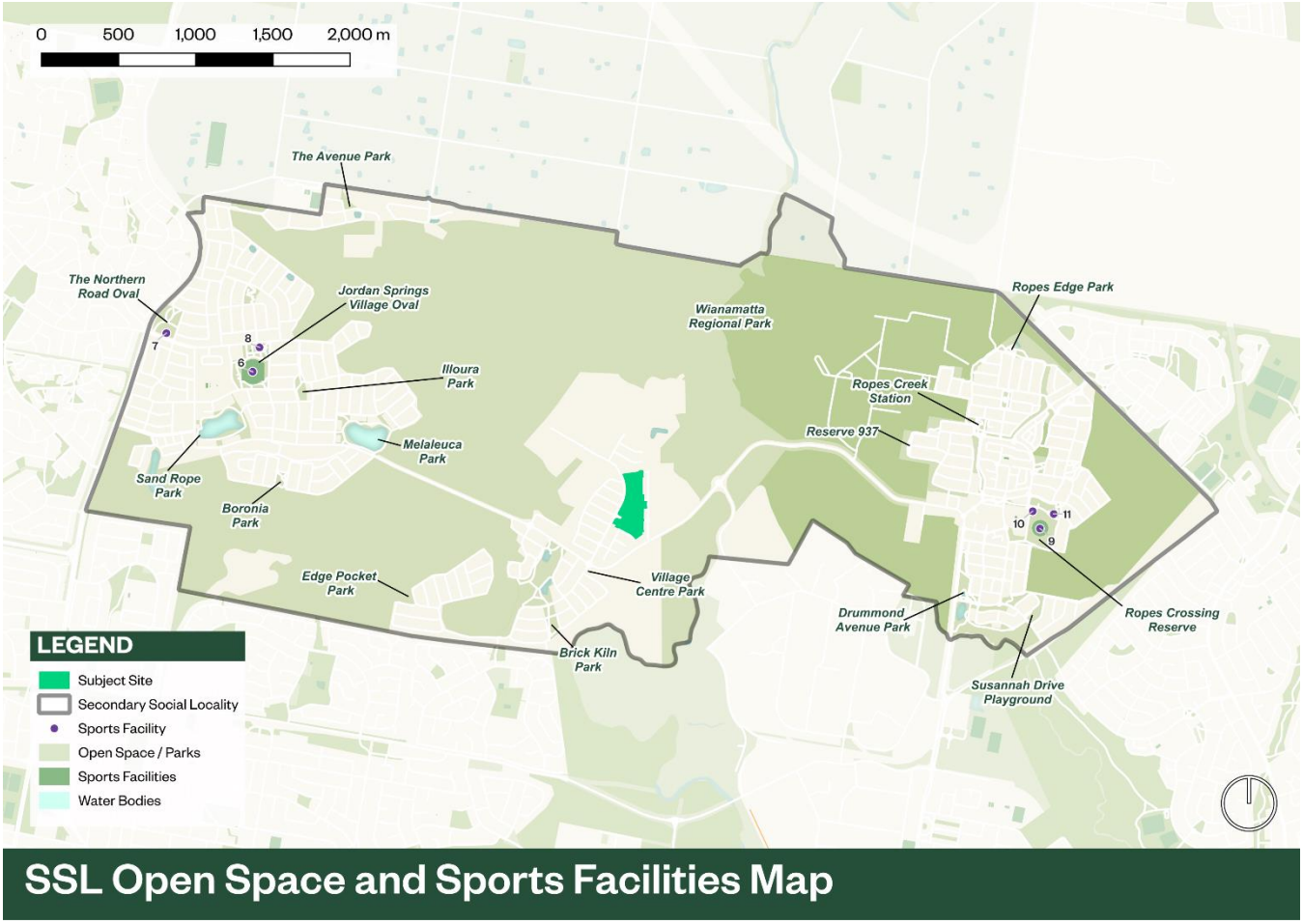

Figure 4: Open spaces and sports facilities in the Secondary Social Locality

Source: (Author, 2024)

3.2.3 Proposed Community and Cultural Facilities and Open space and recreation

The Secondary Social Locality will feature a variety of proposed community facilities and open space that is planned to be constructed as Jordan Springs East continues to grow.[1] Table 6 details the specific facilities close to the site within the Secondary Social Locality. Figure 5 presents an overview of proposed facilities across the Secondary Social Locality.

Table 6: Itemised proposed facilities in the Secondary Social Locality

Map Ref.	Type	Name
12	Shopping Centre	Proposed Neighbourhood Centre
13	Sports Field	Proposed Sport Field (Indicative)

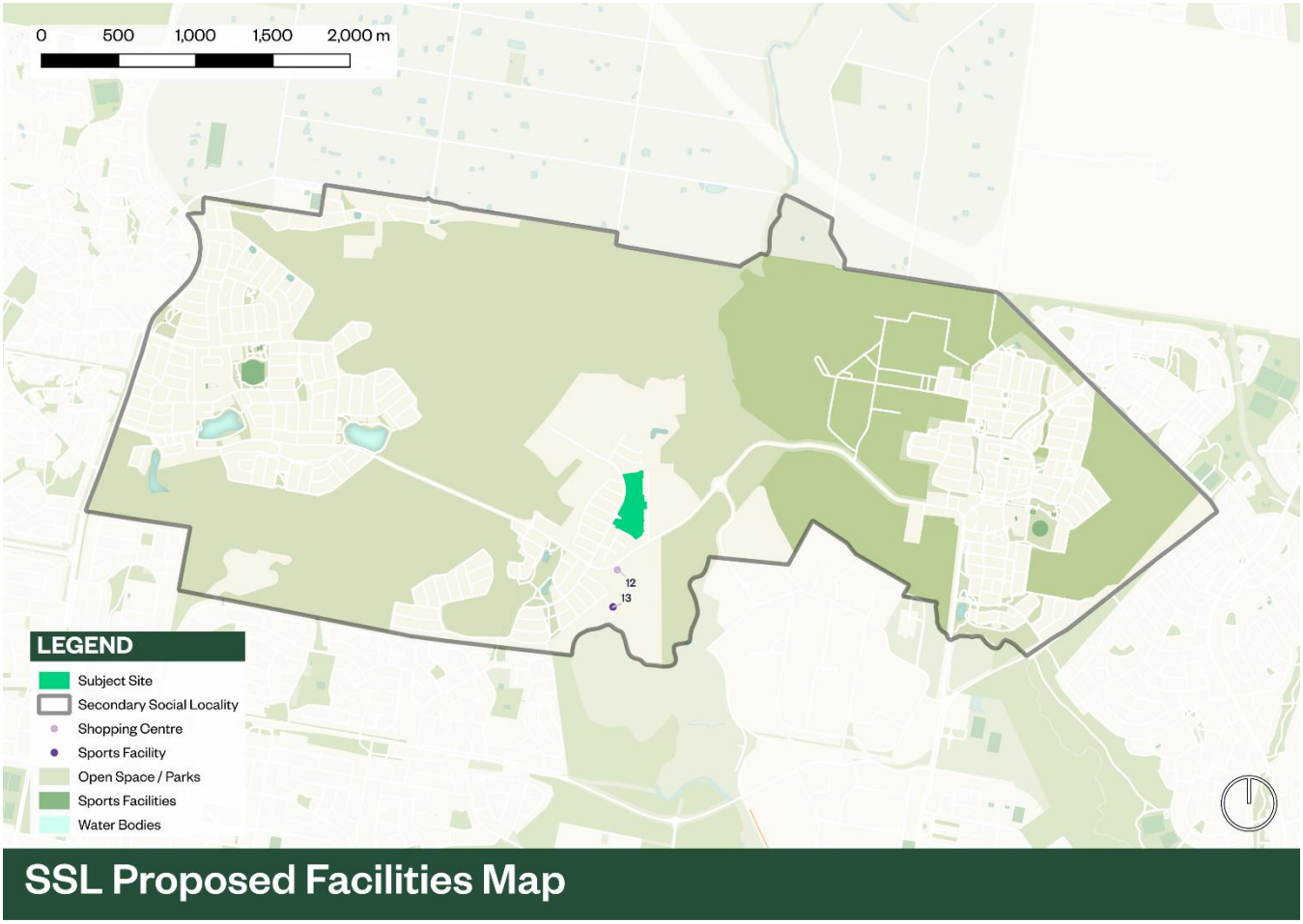

Figure 5: Proposed facilities in the Secondary Social Locality

Source: (Author, 2024)

[1] Lendlease n.d., Jordan Springs Masterplan

4 Community engagement

Respectful, inclusive and meaningful engagement is a fundamental part of SIA, alongside other research activities. It provides first-hand insights into what people value and how they expect an Activity to affect them. It also helps to focus the scope of the SIA on the things that really matter.

It is important to recognise that engagement and public participation is only one component of an SIA. It is aimed at both providing the community the opportunity to meaningfully inform this assessment, as well as increasing the rigour of the assessment through direct insights from affected communities.

The following engagement activities were undertaken by the Department of Education for this activity:

1. Information session held on Wednesday 27 November 2024, 5:30 – 7 pm at the Jordan Springs Community Hub. It is understood that 22 people attended from the local community, including neighbours, local teachers and prospective parents and children.
2. Activity enquiries through the School Infrastructure 1300 number, including a total of 9 email enquiries.
3. Distribution of information through letter box drop and media communication.

On a review of all feedback received from community members through these activities, the following key themes have been identified:

- A high level of interest in the activity from prospective parents and other community members. This includes in relation to likely catchment area, enrolment opening dates, the size of the school and activity timeframes.
- Interest in the relationship between this activity and other local development, including the timing and status of road connections between Ropes Crossing and Jordan Springs and in relation to pre-existing subsidence concerns.
- Design elements, including amount of shade provided for students outside, emergency services access to the sick room, a desire to see quiet spaces for children with autism and experiencing other disabilities.
- Student safety, including in relation to road access in emergencies and bushfire management planning.
- Impacts on residents on Armoury Road, including in relation to:
    - Amenity impacts and changes to views and streetscape, including concern relating to the proximity of the future school buildings to existing houses
    - Access arrangements, including access points, the kiss and drop zone, and temporary parking arrangements.
    - Timeframes for construction and temporary access arrangements.
- Traffic impacts, including maintaining safety for students travelling to and from the school.
  The potential for public use of school facilities.

Where relevant, these impacts have informed the scoping assessment and identification of potential impacts to be assessed in this report.

5 Social Impact Assessment

This section discusses and analyses the issues and impacts (both positive and negative) in relation to the proposed activity with analysis framed in accordance with the social impact categories outlined in **Section 2.0**.

5.1 Scoping

Scoping, the first phase of an SIA, determines the size and scale of likely social impacts of the Activity and, in turn, the scope of the Assessment. The SIA scoping and initial assessment process begins by gaining an understanding of the Activity's social locality and the characteristics of the communities within it, referred to as the social baseline. This involves an initial evaluation of the likely social impacts on different groups within the locality and determining the necessary level of assessment.

Table 7 summarises the SIA scoping process and shows the most significant scoped social impacts for further investigation in the final SIA report. The summary of vulnerabilities and social indicators, and a review of guidance for school design and siting have informed the scoped impacts.

The scoping process has responded directly to matters raised in the Government Architect's *Design Guide for Schools* that have a direct bearing on social elements, including in relation to how an Activity may be experienced by the community and for future students.

The scoping process was conducted in September 2024 and therefore represents information known at the time of writing. Impacts identified below have been further investigated in Section 5 based on a more thorough and recent understanding of project information.

Table 7: Scoping outcomes

Potential social impact	Phase	Level of assessment	Possible preliminary responses identified September 2024	Adopted in project design and planning
Construction activities generating dust, noise, and vibration may lead to negative social impacts for nearby residents, particularly given existing concerns about subsidence. The timing and duration of the construction could exacerbate these effects for those living in close proximity to the site due to construction fatigue from multiple and simultaneous construction projects in the locality.	Construction	Minor	Robust community engagement (see CEP for this Activity) and community-feedback on potential mitigations for incorporation into Construction Management Plan.	Yes – project team has adopted scoping recommendation and incorporated into project design
There is a potential for conflict between the school and the surrounding road network, particularly affecting the safety of school-age pedestrians.	Operation	Minor	Work with Council and/or surrounding landowners (e.g. Lendlease) to provide enhanced pedestrian treatments on Armoury Road.	Yes – project team has adopted scoping recommendation and incorporated into project design.

The car-dependent nature of the locality may result in limited opportunities for safe walking, cycling and public transport access to and from the school. This is particularly relevant given the distance between this school and its feeder school in another part of Jordan Springs, separated by bushland. It is noted that the 783 bus route provides some public transport access during school times.	Operation	Minor	Encourage walking and cycling for students (and staff) by providing bike parking and end of trip facilities.	Yes – project team has adopted scoping recommendation and incorporated into project design
There may be limited options for students from other parts of Jordan Springs to safely walk and cycle to and from school. For example, during after extra-curricular events, there may be concern from parents regarding travelling through areas that are darker or in a bushland context.	Operation	Standard	Incorporate into management plan. Responses involve school community participation, once established.	Addressed through provision of additional transport routes outlined in the Transport Impact Assessment
Change in use to school from anticipated residential uses. The provision of a school may result in a higher number of inactivated frontages due to privacy and security requirements. This may result in a negative social impact for residents with existing views of the site.	Design and planning	Standard	Seek opportunities to provide buffer planting in setbacks where appropriate to reduce the impact of new development. Avoid long stretches of security fencing to public facing areas through arrangement of building edges, landscaping, gates and other openings.	Yes – project team has adopted scoping recommendation and incorporated into project design

As identified in this project, the scoping process conducted early in the preparation of this REF has identified key activity responses that have been holistically incorporated into the proposed design of the activity.

5.2 Key social vulnerabilities

Table 8 shows population highlights that have informed scoping and if each variable would be considered a vulnerability and/or an opportunity.

Table 8: Social factors and vulnerabilities

Social factor	Impact area	Vulnerability
Significant population growth in Primary Study Area and Secondary Study Area between 2016 and 2021	Community Infrastructure, Services, Housing	Yes
Young median age (29) in Primary Study Area, with many families with young children	Community, Education,	No
High average household size (3.3 persons) in Primary Study Area	Housing, Infrastructure, Services	No
Higher median income compared to Greater Sydney GCCSA and Secondary Study Area	Economic activity, Social cohesion	No
99% employment rate in Primary Study Area, lower unemployment compared to Greater Sydney GCCSA	Economic activity, Social cohesion	No

High reliance on private vehicles for commuting (92% in Primary Study Area)	Accessibility	Yes
Some residents needing disability assistance (3%) compared to Greater Sydney	Accessibility, Health and wellbeing	Yes
Some residents have long-term health conditions (12% with one, 2% with two or more)	Accessibility, Health and wellbeing	Yes

5.3 Impact assessment

The following section outlines the assessment of social impacts arising from the proposed activity. The assessment has been based on information available to date, and is primarily a desktop study, informed by a review and analysis of available documents relevant to the activity.

Table 9 identifies that the activity would result in the following residual impacts:

- Temporary impacts to amenity for neighbouring residents and sensitive receivers in both scenarios
- Temporary negative impacts associated with safety for students travelling to and from the site due to complexities for staging in Scenario 2 Stage 2
- Construction activities to deliver stage 2 generating temporary amenity impacts.

The above residual impacts can be mitigated and Section 6 details the proposed mitigation measures. As detailed in Table 9 no other impacts are expected.

Table 9: Social impact assessment

REF Impact Area	Impact	Supporting evidence – social baseline and other technical reporting	Impact dimensions			Significance and experience without mitigation		Alternatives explored and mitigation/enhancement measures identified in other technical reporting	Residual impact (pre SIA-specific mitigation – refer Section 6 below)
			Period, duration and extent	Likelihood	Magnitude	Social significance rating	Experience		
Scenario 1 and Scenario 2 – social impacts in common (refer Section 1.2 above)									
Consider any long-term effects on the environment, including social and economic; Consider social, economic and cultural impacts as part of environmental factors	**Improved Access to Education** The New High School for Jordan Springs provides accessible secondary education, reducing the travel time for students in the Primary and Secondary Study Areas. This activity meets a growing demand due to the high concentration of young families in the social localities, supporting local participation in educational activities and enhancing the quality of life of students and families.	The Primary and Secondary Study Areas have high percentages of children aged 0-9. This cohort will in coming years transition to secondary school, timing with the anticipated opening of the new High School for Jordan Springs.	**Period:** Operation **Duration:** Ongoing **Extent:** Primarily impacts parents and students within the school catchment.	Almost certain	Major	**Very high**	**Positive**	The design process has involved iterative testing and refinement based on a modular school design that has incorporated best practice in and is in line with all Department of Education standards for teaching and learning.	A **very high significance of a positive impact** for the local community. The provision of education is a very significant social benefit, particularly in areas that do not currently have sufficient access.
Consider any risk to the safety of the environment, including public health; Consider human and non-human environment as part of transformation of a locality	**Temporary impacts to amenity for neighbouring residents and sensitive receivers** While construction impacts are themselves subject to environmental impact management, they can comprise social impacts when they are experienced negatively by the community. A negative experience of construction impacts may include: • Physical impacts to health and wellbeing • Direct psychological impacts attributed to physical elements • Indirect psycho-social impacts attributed to the perception of change to an environment that construction activities can create and the lessening of items of value. For example, noise impacts that reduce the perceptibility of ambient bird sounds that a resident has come to associate with their area, and the wider community associate as a component of their sense of place, will have psycho-social impacts and should be considered in this SIA. Additionally, construction fatigue, as a cumulative impact, presents ongoing challenges for local residents during prolonged or multiple construction projects. This fatigue manifests through heightened sensitivity to noise, dust, and general disruption, leading to possible declines in quality of life. Although this effect is not exclusive to this activity, its intensity can increase over time, necessitating careful management to minimise long-term adverse effects on resident wellbeing.	The Primary Study Area saw a population increase from 0 in 2016 to 689 in 2021, with a high concentration of young families, 55% of households being family units with children, and 15% of the population under age 4. With a median age of 29 in the Primary Study Area compared to 37 in Greater Sydney, the area is characterised by young, active households more sensitive to environmental disruptions. Community sensitivity may be heightened due to existing concerns about subsidence and other environmental factors, although it is understood by the SIA author that these are unrelated to this proposed activity and will not be exacerbated by it. The Noise and Vibration Assessment prepared to accompany this REF has identified that during construction works, noise levels may exceed the NML by up to 21 dB during periods when construction plant operates in close proximity to the perimeter of the site. The report further notes that the predicted levels are consistent with noise levels generated during typical construction works on a site in reasonably close proximity to a receiver (p. 30) The Noise and Vibration Assessment has further identified that construction vibration is not considered a potential issue (p. 31)	**Period:** Construction **Duration:** Intermittent, throughout the construction period **Extent:** Primarily affects residents adjacent to construction zones	Likely	Moderate *The existing community sensitivity due to the pre-existing and unrelated subsidence issues in the Jordan Springs area is likely to heighten the experience of temporary amenity impacts.*	**High**	**Negative**	The Noise and Vibration Assessment Report prepared by Marshall Day Acoustics has identified the following recommended mitigation to minimise impacts on neighbouring residents: *The implementation of noise management measures will be required to mitigate impacts on the surrounding residential properties. A detailed CNVMP should be prepared prior to construction works commencing* (p.30). The preliminary Construction Management Plan prepared to accompany this REF has identified the following measures to manage dust, noise and vibration: 1. Site perimeter fence to be installed with mesh screening 2. A wet process will be instituted for cutting, drilling and grinding 3. Mist spray will be employed during the demolition and excavation activities 4. Materials will be stored appropriately and trucks leaving the sites will have loads covered and cross a shaker grid prior to entering the roadway. 5. Surrounding neighbours will need to be informed of works through consultation with SINSW and noise complaints recorded and reported.	A **moderate residual impact** to amenity for neighbouring residents is expected. Mitigation measures have been identified in Section 6 below that are anticipated to substantially mitigate this impact. It is expected that, following this mitigation, no significant residual impact will remain.
Consider human and non-human environment as part of transformation of a locality; Consider social, economic and cultural impacts as part of environmental factors	**Temporary accessibility changes** Temporary changes to the way that people access local streets and move around their neighbourhood can have impacts to residents' way of life. These may be generated by increased truck movements during construction, and/or temporary hoardings and scaffolding.	The social baseline data shows that 92% of residents in the Primary Study Area use private vehicles to commute to work, with only 8% using public transport. The Secondary Study Area reflects similar trends, with 91% using cars. Limited public transport options mean residents rely heavily on local road access, especially on Armoury Road and Infantry Street. This baseline suggests a high importance due to local dependence on private vehicles and limited alternative transit options, with moderate to high concern about added congestion and delays during peak hours.	**Period:** Construction phase **Duration:** Variable, with intermittent peak disruptions **Extent:** Local, primarily impacting residents along main access	Possible	Minor	**Medium**	**Negative**	The Transport Impact Assessment prepared for this REF has identified a number of mitigation measures to reduce the likelihood of negative impacts occurring due to construction traffic. These are outlined in Section 10.3 of that document.	**No significant residual impact has been identified.**

		It is understood that the TIA has not identified any significant impacts arising from construction traffic, due to the size of the site and its location.							
Consider any reduction of the aesthetic, recreational, scientific or other environmental quality or value of a locality	Change in use to school from anticipated residential uses. The provision of a school may result in a higher number of inactivated frontages due to privacy and security requirements. This may result in a negative social impact for residents with existing views of the site. Additionally, there is likely to be a substantial bulk and scale that is notably larger than surrounding development, which may generate amenity impacts for existing residents.	It is understood through community engagement on this project that some residents on Armoury Road have expressed concern with the bulk and scale of the school, as well as its traffic and noise generation. This feedback reflects this concern with the change from anticipated residential uses to this use as a school.	**Period:** Construction phase **Duration:** Variable, with intermittent peak disruptions **Extent:** Local, primarily impacting residents along main access	***Likely***	***Minor – affecting a small number of adjacent residents***	***Medium***	***Negative***	The design of the school has incorporated a public plaza the corner of Armoury Road and Infantry Street. This has been designed as a landscaped area for the local community to gather and incorporates Connecting with Country elements. Additionally, the Landscape Report identifies that canopy trees and landscaped buffer zones are proposed at the school boundaries to provide a green edge to the activity visible from the street, to reflect a landscape character, and provide for shade and amenity.	**No significant residual impact has been identified, given the project enhancements identified.** Mitigation measure 2 identified in Section 6 below will contribute to managing any unexpected impacts if they arise, and assist with building trust and allaying community concerns through the construction process.
Consider any risk to the safety of the environment, including public health	**Safety for future school students** The car-dependent nature of the Jordan Springs locality presents potential safety challenges for school-age pedestrians, with limited infrastructure for safe walking, cycling, or public transport access to and from the school. The school's distance from its feeder schools, separated by bushland, further complicates safe travel options, especially for students returning home after extracurricular activities when lighting may be limited. Although the 783 bus route provides some access during school hours, options remain restricted, raising parental concerns over student safety in less accessible or poorly lit areas.	It is understood that the Transport Impact Assessment has identified future improvements to access to the Wianamatta Parkway which is likely to enhance walking and cycling access to the New High School.	**Period:** Construction phase **Duration:** Variable, with intermittent peak disruptions **Extent:** Local, primarily impacting residents along main access	Possible	Major	**High**	**Negative**	The TIA has recommended a number of transport solutions to enhance walking, cycling and public transport access to the site. Many of these have been integrated into the proposed design, or have begun to form engagement topics with relevant stakeholders and government agencies. For example, it is understood that a Transport Working Group has been formed between SINSW, TfNSW, and Penrith City Council to co-ordinate and discuss public domain items to ensure enhanced pedestrian treatments are provided on Armoury road. These enhanced treatments would substantially mitigate some concerns relating to safety for school children travelling to and from the campus.	With the ultimate delivery of new bus services, and the implementation of recommended mitigation and enhancement measures identified in the TIA, **no significant residual impact has been identified.** It is noted that there may be temporary negative impacts associated with safety for students travelling to and from the site due to complexities for staging in Stage 2 of Scenario 1. Particularly, lack of connection to the Wianamatta Parkway through this stage would limit safety and accessibility for students travelling to and from Ropes Crossing. This is reflected in the TIA prepared for this REF and targeted mitigations are proposed.
Consider human and non-human environment as part of transformation of a locality; Consider social, economic and cultural impacts as part of environmental factors	**Increased traffic during school drop-off and pick-up** There may be increased demand on the road network in the immediate social locality during school drop-off and pick-ups at future kiss and ride. This may increase congestion, particularly on Armoury Road which is anticipated to host the school kiss and rise and indented bus stop.	The Transport Impact Assessment, at Section 7.0, has modelled traffic generation associated with the School proposal. That Assessment has concluded minimal impact and a satisfactory level of service for the surrounding road network based on an assessment of the impact of the New High School for Jordan Springs.	**Period:** Operation **Duration:** Ongoing **Extent:** Local road users	**Unlikely**	**Minor**	**Low**	**Negative**	It is understood that bicycle parking and end-of-trip facilities have been provided within the design of the school. With a good network of cycling paths in the area, this provision has the potential to reduce reliance on parents dropping off and picking up children, reducing local traffic. There are further flow on benefits to parents daily routines and children's health and wellness generated by daily physical activity.	**No significant residual impact has been identified.**
Impacts particular to Scenario 2 (refer section 1.2.2 above).									
Consider human and non-human environment as part of transformation of a locality; Consider social, economic and cultural impacts as part of environmental factors	**Construction activities to deliver stage 2 and 3 generating temporary amenity impacts** for students and teachers in classrooms and sports field on the remainder of the site. There may be negative impacts to learning associated with these construction activities generating dust, noise and vibration. Additionally, there may be additional impacts associated with the presence of construction and operational traffic occurring concurrently due to the staging of the Activity in Scenario 2.	Not identified	**Period:** Temporary during an initial period of operation. **Duration:** Temporary **Extent:** Enrolled students and staff	**Possible**	Moderate	**Medium**	**Negative**	Not identified	**The residual impact is identified as of a medium significance and requires future mitigation and management,** particularly during Scenario 2 Stage 3. Mitigation measures have been identified in Section 6 below that are anticipated to substantially mitigate this impact. It is expected that, following this mitigation, no significant residual impact will remain

6 Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measures aim to avoid and mitigate any identified significant negative impacts and enhance the social benefits.

Table 10: Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Number/name	When is Mitigation Measure to be complied with	Mitigation Measure	Reason for Mitigation Measure	Residual Impact
SIA recommendations				
1 Managing construction activities to deliver scenario 2 stage 2 generating temporary amenity impacts	Prior to the commencement of construction for scenario 2, stage 2	The future Construction Management Plan for this stage of works should be developed in consultation with the future School Principal and any other relevant staff.	To ensure that matters relating to student learning and safety are fully appreciated and mitigations are tailored to the school environment context.	Minimal
2 Managing construction impacts and temporary access changes for neighbouring residents	Prior to commencement of construction	The future construction management plan to include a robust engagement approach that is targeted particularly to residents of Armoury Road. This Plan is to include: 1. Regular updates, informing of upcoming works, access changes, and responses to previous community feedback 2. Clear and convenient channels for issues and complaints to be raised 3. Regular monitoring of feedback received through engagement activities to ensure concerns are promptly addressed. Particular attention should be given to feedback from neighbouring residents in relation to: Access arrangements during construction and operation Noise, dust and vibration from construction activities Project communication and opportunities for additional feedback channels.	Residents of Armoury Road who will experience the most direct impacts from construction activities	Minimal
Mitigations referenced in other technical reports				
3 Detailed Construction Noise and Vibration	Prior to commencement of construction	The implementation of noise management measures will be required to mitigate impacts on the surrounding residential properties. A detailed CNVMP should be prepared prior to construction works	Manage temporary impacts to amenity for neighbouring residents and sensitive receivers	Minimal

Management Plan		commencing (Noise and Vibration Assessment Report, p. 30)		
4 Management measures to reduce impact on amenity for neighbours	For the duration of construction	Measures to manage dust, noise and vibration (refer preliminary Construction Management Plan): 1. Site perimeter fence to be installed with mesh screening 2. A wet process will be instituted for cutting, drilling and grinding 3. Mist spray will be employed during the demolition and excavation activities 4. Materials will be stored appropriately and trucks leaving the sites will have loads covered and cross a shaker grid prior to entering the roadway. 5. Surrounding neighbours will need to be informed of works through consultation with SINSW and noise complaints recorded and reported.	Manage temporary impacts to amenity for neighbouring residents and sensitive receivers	Minimal
5 Mitigating transport and access impacts	During construction	Compliance with the mitigations identified in Section 10.3 of the Transport Impact Assessment prepared for this REF.	Temporary changes to the way that people access local streets and move around their neighbourhood can have impacts to residents' way of life. These may be generated by increased truck movements during construction, and/or temporary hoardings and scaffolding.	Minimal
6 Continue to engage with stakeholders to enhance transport options and the local public domain	Ongoing – continuing through construction activities and first two years of operation	School Infrastructure NSW and the Department of Education to continue to engage with the Transport Working Group (consisting of SINSW, TfNSW, and Penrith City Council) to coordinate and discuss public domain items and enhanced pedestrian treatments on Armoury Road.	To enhance safe walking, cycling and public transport options, ensure student safety, and manage impacts on neighbouring properties along Armoury Road.	Minimal

6.1 Management and monitoring

The post-approval of an activity should ideally include continuous mitigation of social impacts. This management can help to ensure negative impacts are better mitigated, positive impacts are further amplified and that you maintain and enhance your positive working relationships with communities and stakeholders. The monitoring and adaptive management of social impacts aim to protect and enhance the social environment throughout the life of the activity, starting during construction.

The mitigation and management of other potential impacts that interrelate with social impacts will contribute to the mitigation and management of social impacts of the proposed activity. The preparation of the Construction Management Plan and the Operational Plan of Management should include reference to this Social Impact Assessment to ensure that impacts that cannot be fully mitigated can be managed, and unexpected consequences addressed proactively.

7 Evaluation of environmental impacts

This social impact assessment has examined the social, economic and cultural impacts arising from the proposed activity. Based on this assessment, it has been identified that the proposed activity will have a net-positive social impact on the community. The provision of secondary education in this location will transform access for students in the growing suburbs of Jordan Springs and Ropes Crossing. Any identified negative impacts are largely temporary in nature and capable of mitigation. Further, the project team's early and comprehensive adoption of the preliminary recommendations of the social impact scoping study, as documented in Section 5.1, has avoided and minimised a number of potential social impacts.

It is determined through this Social Impact Assessment that the Activity will not have a significant negative impact on the environment.