



# Anoulack Chanthivong MP

## MEMBER FOR MACQUARIE FIELDS

The Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC  
Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning  
office@mitchell.minister.nsw.gov.au

28 February 2020

Dear Minister,

I write again in relation to Hurlstone Agricultural High School at Glenfield.

Further to my previous correspondence, I wish to reiterate several issues relating to the school. Feedback I received from the recent community consultation session at Hurlstone Agricultural High School highlighted several key issues as outlined below:

- **An urgent need to upgrade boarding facilities:**

It has come to my attention that the boarding facilities at the school are severely run-down and in desperate need of an upgrade. The living standards are far from satisfactory, with mould growing in some rooms as a result of no air conditioning or windows in some rooms. The current conditions pose serious health and safety concerns.

I am also aware that boarding numbers have declined dramatically in recent years to a meagre 42 boarders currently. Numbers are so low that one boarding block has been closed, and junior boarders are now occupying the seniors boarding block.

An urgent upgrade of the boarding facilities is required to make it safe for boarders and ensure its long-term viability. I note that an upgrade to boarding facilities is planned. What is the timeframe for delivery of an upgrade and how many boarders will Hurlstone cater for?

- **The importance of retaining the Hurlstone Farm and surrounding land:**

I have consistently advocated for the Hurlstone Farm to be retained. The Hurlstone Farm and surrounding land provides invaluable green open space for a community hit hard by the impacts of overdevelopment. Further, a fully-functioning Farm and working dairy enables students to gain a quality agricultural education and continue the proud Hurlstone tradition.



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Therefore, I would like clarification on whether the dairy is to be a full working dairy and the Department's definition of what a full working dairy entails, including the number of required paddocks and animals to be located on the school site.

The green open space is also vital for students' well-being, particularly for those at the hilltop schools of Ajuga, Campbell House and Glenfield Park. The students at these schools have special needs and the green vista is crucial to their schooling and overall well-being.

- **Further consultation with the wider school community:**

The feedback I received from the community consultation meeting was that convenors were ill-prepared and the room was overcrowded, with limited seated forcing people to stand for hours. There was general consensus that more consultation was needed, including another meeting, which would enable broader representation from boarders' families, working parents and the wider school community. I note too that there were three separate community drop-in information sessions in Richmond, but only one information session for Hurlstone at Glenfield. Will there be further opportunities for the Hurlstone community to have their say before the business case for the school is submitted to NSW Treasury?

It is imperative that the planned upgrades at Hurlstone, and the masterplan for the adjoining subdivision, take into account the agricultural and farming needs of the school, including a full working dairy.

The school community is concerned that the masterplan for the adjoining subdivision will supersede a business case for the school. This leaves the school's future ability to manage a fully-functioning dairy and continue to be a leader in agricultural educational in doubt.

It is essential that Hurlstone Agricultural High School's needs are met first and foremost – before any other plans for the Glenfield Precinct. The Hurlstone Farm and its adjoining land must be retained to ensure the school can continue its long and proud agricultural tradition. The preservation of green open space is also vitally important for our growing community.

I would be grateful for your advice on the matters raised.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Anoulack Chanthivong'.

**Anoulack Chanthivong, MP**  
**Member for Macquarie Fields**