

Paul Scully
Minister for Planning and Public Spaces

5 September 2026

Kelly's Place Children's Centre

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you in my capacity of Chair of the Waverton Precinct, in the North Sydney Council area. This is our local residents' group.

Our Precinct is not at all opposed to the Council's idea of a redevelopment of the Hume St Park – indeed with the steadily rising housing density in our municipality we want to hold on to as much open space as possible and we welcome the parks being designed, maintained and equipped to a high level.

However, Kelly's Place Childcare Centre has been in that park area for the last 38 years and has an extremely high reputation, providing an alternative model to the more recent wave of large, commercial, and sometimes even foreign owned international childcare centre chains (not that these are a problem in itself, they are often very well run and have a standardized and well-structured education approach). In contrast Kelly's Place deliberately has:

- a small number of attending children—40 per week
- the number of educators exceeding the minimum regulatory educator-to-child ratio requirements
- educators holding qualifications that exceed the minimum regulatory requirements
- and is run by the parents' collective.

We cannot see why the Centre is not simply designed into the expanded park. It could easily have a grass roof for example and a slope to merge it into the surrounding parkland, which we note is already built on a natural sloping block of land. We see no reason why this new building cannot be designed into the specifications for the new Park upgrade. We note that the proposed redesign of the existing public park is currently open for input by local residents so clearly the Council is open to considering possible variations - which is why I am writing to you now.

Our recent meeting voted unanimously that we'd like to keep this unique option available for local families in the surrounding area.

Our meeting last Tuesday decided I should write to you urgently on this issue.

Yours sincerely,
Ian Grey
Chair, Waverton Precinct