



# DENMARK HIGH SCHOOL

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PRINCIPAL: Diane Cole

*Dear Parents and Community Members,*

I am writing to you about the future of the dormitory wing of our old Agricultural school building at our Denmark High School site.

There has been a lot said publicly about this matter, and I wanted to provide you with some information on the school's plans for the building and how these will benefit students.

To provide you with some background, the building is currently being used by the Centre for Sustainable Living. On October 27 I met Mr Donald Clarke (convenor of the Denmark Education and Innovation Committee) and Mr Stan Vermeeran (Centre for Sustainable Living manager) to discuss the building. At this meeting I gave them a formal letter as well as the opportunity for explanation and questioning. Green Skills has never had a lease with the Department of Education for the facility. There was a lease with the Denmark Education and Innovation Committee which based on advice from the State Solicitors Office expired in December 2008. The facility used by Green Skills is owned by the Department of Education and has been rented to the Denmark Education and Innovation Committee on a very generous basis of \$150 per year in the past.

The decision to resume occupation of our building for our school was not made lightly and involved consultation with the School Council, Denmark High School P &C, the Regional Executive Director, and various directorates of the Department of Education.

At our school we have always had a good relationship with the DEIC and Green Skills, however, this is a school site and the needs of our students are key to decision making now and in the future. We are a growing school with rising student numbers and we need the facilities for our students to learn and thrive.

You are probably aware of the Royalties for Regions upgrade which is in development for our school, to deliver refurbished science laboratories, our first full size library and specialist technology and enterprise buildings. The new facilities will give our students access to state of the art equipment and the opportunity to gain Certificate II and Certificate III qualifications in the building, construction, metal fabrication and furniture design trades.

When we began planning this facilities upgrade, two matters became apparent. These were the need for rooms for students to have classes in while the science area is being refurbished; and secondly the proximity of the new technology and enterprise building to the Centre for Sustainable Living (in the old agricultural college building).

Given that the Centre for Sustainable Living offers residential accommodation and workshops for adult guests not associated with our school, it is not appropriate for it to be located so close to school classrooms.

Once the Royalties for Regions upgrade is complete and the science classes move in, we plan to use the old agricultural college building to develop a music and media centre for our students to nurture their creative talents.

As the building also contains a commercial kitchen and restaurant area we can also expand students' learning in hospitality and give them the opportunity to attain Certificate II and Certificate III qualifications as part of their Year 11 and Year 12 studies.

In terms of environment and sustainability education for our students, this will continue to be taught by our teachers as part of the curriculum here at school.

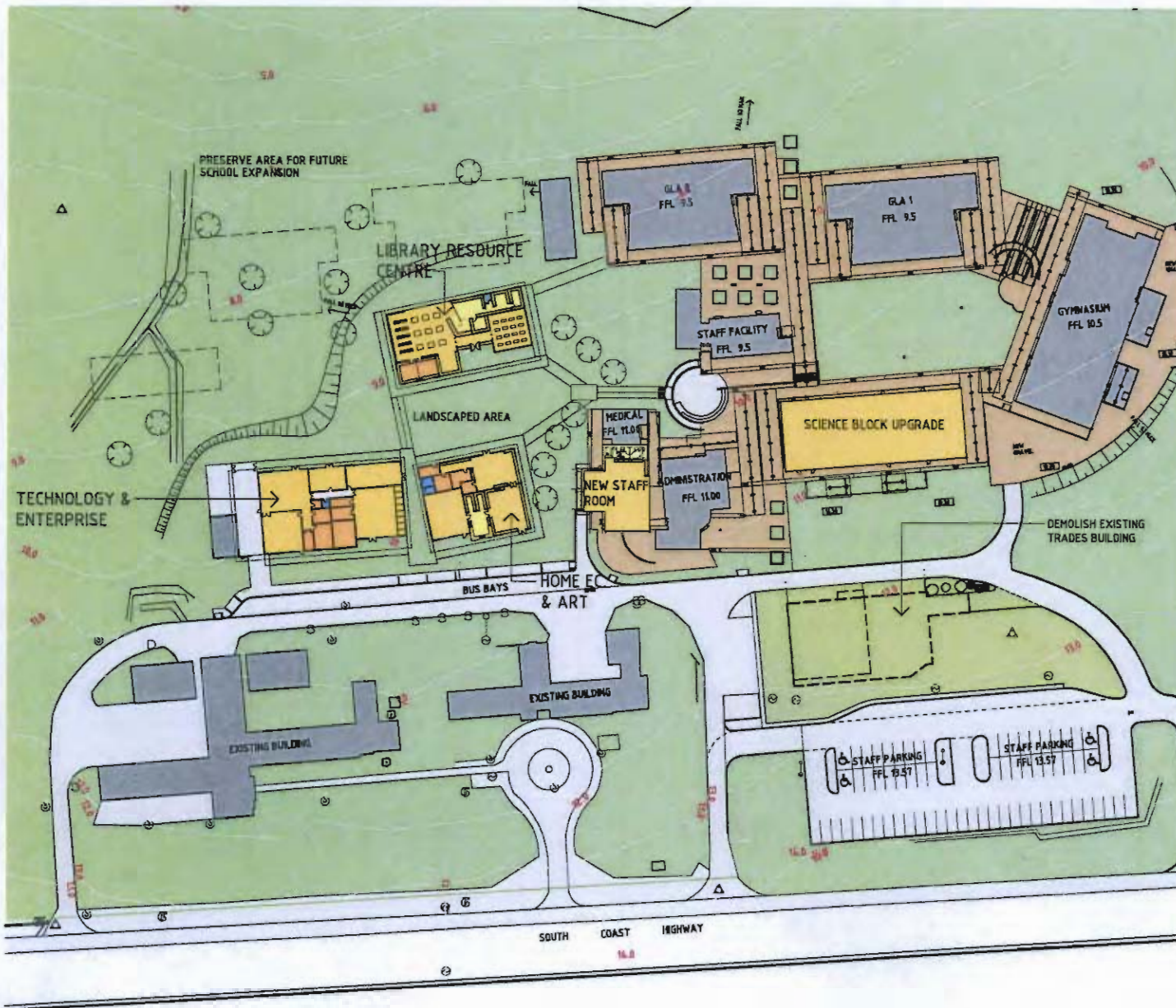
We are not suggesting that the work of the Centre for Sustainable Living cease, but do respectfully request that they find an alternative venue so educational opportunities for our students can flourish.

I have appreciated the support offered by parents and community members regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Diane Cole  
Principal



**SITE PLAN**  
SCALE 1:1000 @ A3

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No.	AMENDMENT	DATE	CHKD

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**DENMARK SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL UPGRADE**  
 SITE  
 PRELIMINARY PLAN

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APPROVED	MR	SIGNATURE		
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