

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

**Outcome 1 - Early Childhood**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0131\_11**

**Senator Payne provided in writing.**

**Question**

**PUBLIC OPPOSITION TO MEREWETHERHEIGHTS EARLY LEARNING AND  
CARE CENTRE SITE**

Was the Department made aware of considerable public opposition to the site selection because of child safety concerns?

**Answer**

The Department is aware of the concerns raised by the school's Parents and Citizens Association, some local residents and the Teachers' Federation. The Department is also aware that this issue was closely considered by the Newcastle City Council in approving the Development Application for the project and the steps taken by the New South Wales Department of Education and Training to commission an independent traffic engineer to make recommendations relating to any safety controls that may be required for this project.