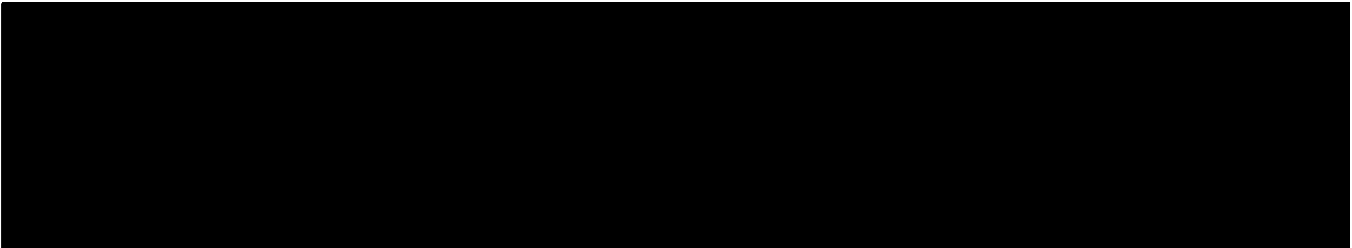


TO: The Director
Social and Infrastructure Assessments
Planning and Assessment
NSW Planning
Department of Planning and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124



Name of Application: New High School In Bungendore

Application Number: SSD-14394209

OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSAL ATTACHED



I would like my personal details to be withheld from publication.

Director – Social and Infrastructure Assessments
Planning and Assessment
NSW Planning
Dept of Planning and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

NEW HIGH SCHOOL IN BUNGENDORE – SDD14394209

I am writing this submission to object to the proposed location of the new high school in Bungendore. I fully support building a high school in Bungendore but not in this location.

The proposed site would result in public land being enclosed, effectively and visibly restricting public access to areas previously accessible to all residents. The proposal represents loss of the town's civic precinct. There is no proposal to replace, relocate or recreate this precinct. How do you replace the centre of a rural town? Why do we have to choose between our heritage park and a high school when there are other suitable locations available. The assertion that the site chosen is the most suitable is unsubstantiated. What other rural town has had to lose their park to gain a high school? None that I know of because they know the value of a central recreational area. The beauty of the park is that it's a free open space.

The proposed high school site sits upon Bungendore Park. Bungendore Park was first gazetted in the late 19th century (approximately 1880) and has been the jewel of Bungendore ever since. Along with the two remaining churches, the police station and the post office, it is one of the few remaining links to that era for Bungendore. Further, it has been home to the Bungendore Tigers (our Rugby League team) since 1908.

It is acknowledged that Bungendore High School will actually scale up to 700 kids. That will be a massive increase on the 450 set out in the development application, which the Department of Planning is using to assess the project. It's 55% more than the initial capacity, which is already struggling to fit onto a site which is already below Department of Education minimum standards. That means 55% more kids crammed into a diminished outdoor space.

That means 55% more parking required for teachers, students, parents and visitors. 55% more traffic conflicting with the preschool, the primary school, the Scout Hall and residents of Elmslea and Turallo Terrace. The pre-school has recently received funding and approval to provide learning space for an extra 58 children. The pre-school is located in Turallo Terrace and will therefore need more parking to accommodate this increase. Turallo Terrace is a residential area, not a public car park. Has a traffic study taken this into account? (The SEARS require them to assess impact of proposed neighbouring development.)

Public opinion has been ignored. The local Council were overwhelmingly elected due to their commitment to oppose the plan to build the high school in this location.

The current plans were made by people who have no knowledge of Bungendore or of how much we value our park. Surely it's time to listen to public opinion and start again with a different location.

I have made no political donations in the last two years.