

Director - Social and Infrastructure Assessments  
Planning and Assessment  
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure  
Locked Bag 5022 Parramatta NSW 2124  
9 July 2024

Dear Sir or Madam

Amended proposal for New High School in Bungendore (SSD-14394209)

**I strongly object to the new amended SSDA 14394209 for the following reasons.**

**Despite changes made to the first SSDA Bungendore High School, the new amended DA does little to alter the fact that the Bungendore Park/Majara Road precinct remains an ill considered, inadequate site proposed with little knowledge of the village history, structure, traffic flow, location of associated village population growth, and the rapid development and growth in the surrounding catchment areas. Many of the proposed changes to the actual building are difficult to comprehend and other changes such as the path to the west of the oval from Turallo Tce to Gibraltar St appears to be merely cosmetic, tinkering at the margins. The untenable site is the issue.**

**The swimming pool** may have been given a convenient “feel good” reprieve for the community, but a replacement pool on the sports hub by our cash strapped Council for the benefit of high school students is a long way off and should not absolve the DoE from responsibility to provide sporting areas for high school students.

**An agricultural plot**, with no amenities or storage for equipment sounds puzzling but perhaps demountables that don't require a DA will be the next step. Or is it to be retained simply to give the overall HS site a legitimate footprint while ignoring Crown Land issues.

**From the design illustrations** one would assume that the high school site is surrounded to the north, east and west by open green spaces, whereas in reality there are new and established housing developments to the east, north and south, and a railway line and heritage railway station along the perimeter; a railway line and surrounding land with possible lead contamination.

**Apart from Crown Land legal issues**, there are many other practical issues still to be resolved which have already become evident long before the first sod has been turned.

**The first traffic survey was conducted by DoE in November 2020 during COVID lockdowns. The second traffic survey was conducted in January 2022 prior to the beginning of the new school year, before Majara St, between Turallo Tce and Gibraltar St, was suddenly closed to through traffic to the primary school and Kings Highway, and before the Elmgrove development had started and the temporary high school opened.**

**Now traffic from Elmslea and Elmgrove along McCusker St over the Turallo Creek low level crossing is directed past the kindergarten down Turallo Tce and onto Butmaroo St to Gibraltar St in order to access the primary and new temporary high school. The volume of this traffic has grown enormously and neither Turallo Tce nor Butmaroo St has footpaths.**

There are 342 year 6 students in Bungendore and the surrounding catchment areas who will be eligible for high school in 2025. **More than 200 of these students live outside Bungendore and will depend on cars and buses for transport. The DoE has now downgraded traffic numbers; 1.4 students will be assumed to travel in each car.**

**Additional angle parking on the Park along both sides of Turallo Tce will present grave safety issues.** It is already a busy access road, especially since the closure of Majara St.

**The traffic along Turallo Tce turns into Butmaroo St, which is the thoroughfare for all pedestrian, bicycle and scooter traffic along the paths from Elmslea and Elmgrove, to the schools and commercial centre of town. It is an accident waiting to happen.**

**The area of the Ponds and Warren Little oval, across Turallo Creek, are green spaces, well used by the community as footpath access from Elmslea and Elmgrove to Butmaroo St when not boggy or inundated. This is an area designed for flood mitigation, and it works well at those times.**

**The heritage precinct around Bungendore Park is the core of Bungendore Village's history, a relic of colonial times and a tourist drawcard; railway station and railway cottages, the original primary school, school of arts, original PO, "Menin Gate" ANZAC memorial, Court house/police station, Cobb and Co. stables, St Phillips church, old Catholic convent school, and heritage timber cottages. Add to this a recent state of the art playground, amenities block, a carpark, tennis courts, cricket nets, the Mick Sherd oval and swimming pool all on the Park. These attractive, well used facilities on Bungendore Park are on Crown land dedicated for public use and recreation. This is not the site for a high school even with the acquired Majara St land, and Mick Sherd oval is not available to accomodate future high school development.**

**A kindergarten to year 12 "Educational Precinct" is now passe. Why, therefore would we continue with an outdated educational concept erecting a new high school wedged in between a pre school and an overcrowded primary school with a railway line running along the eastern perimeter, limited from the start, and sacrifice trees and pleasant outdoor spaces that will lessen the impact climate change is already having on our lives?**

**Bungendore is surrounded by greenways. The proposed site is not the only available site and obviously it hasn't been a quick fix.**

Government policies are promoting the importance of a greener, cleaner environment to facilitate outdoor activities to improve the physical and mental health of communities, young and old. Why should a community have to sacrifice a long established well treed Park, today, to build a hastily planned high school on a small, costly, limited and possibly contaminated site away from more easily accessible areas of current and future population growth? It makes no sense.

**I have no affiliation with any Political Party, Local, State or Federal, nor have I ever made a donation to a Political Party.**

**Jillian Gregory**

**5 Butmaroo St**

**Bungendore NSW 2621 tel:0400244030**

