

Submission relating to: SSD-30759158

Based on the information provided in the EIS and Supporting Appendices, I object to the development.

I would like to express my great concerns over the application that is being lodged to build a school/college on Catherine Fields Road. I am totally against any school, of any type, being built in Catherine Field. It is a very small, quiet **rural town** and this is why I live here. I don't want it to change or develop. Traffic has already increased since all these estates are opening around us and the opening of the road from Oran Park straight onto Springfield Road which has further impacted the traffic. I myself work in a high school and know the amount of traffic a school creates at various times of the day and evening depending on what is happening in the school calendar - buses coming and going for sports and excursions as well, and they want to also run events till 10pm at night everyday, how is this ok?? What safety and security measures are being put in place. They have also expressed the hours of the school being much more extensive then they expressed in their very short, one time only 'community zoom' That they barely advertised. They have purchased three 5 acre blocks – that's 15 acres that they will utilise each and every day for long hours. They plan to run sporting and religious activities in and outside of school hours. This will create many problems, such as constant traffic – This will further damage our roads that are constantly filled with pot holes already and some sections only one car can pass – where the council has no intention of fixing the roads, parking – there will not be enough parking on site, there never is in schools, so the road and surrounding neighbours will have cars constantly parked on the side of the road and blocking their driveways just as what has happened at every school in the surrounding areas. The amount of car spots they are putting in wont even be enough for staff let alone visitors, students and people dropping off their kids for daycare. Furthermore, this would lead to road safety concerns due to many factors. The traffic lights on Camden Valley way / Catherine field road and Springfield and Catherine field road – only let 3-4 cars out at a time – this will create a constant back up of traffic due to the increase in cars, trucks, buses (both during construction and when the school opens and after hours) and can lead to people taking dangerous chances to get through the lights causing unnecessary accidents or fatalities. This is not fair on residence who did not move to this area to be bombarded with traffic and all the problems that comes with that traffic. Including more dangerous road –accidents, a 40km zone on a rural street, one lane each direction, where at every school I have ever seen no matter how much on site parking or long driveway they have causes cars to just stop ON THE ROAD waiting to get in to drop or pick up their kids. Go look at the school in Catherine Park they block roads for an hour before school finishes waiting ON THE ROAD to collect their children. This would cause much distress for neighbours and road users who are trying to go about their business and don't expect traffic jams everyday on a rural road! There is no shoulder or safe place to stop and the road is one lane each way- therefore not enough space for an increase in traffic that this school will provide 7 DAYS A WEEK.

We already have an increase of traffic on the weekends due to the softball/baseball teams that play on the weekends, that are crossing the road and parking all over the place near the sporting fields.

As per the Road Safety report -

All three corridors are currently unsafe for pedestrians in the current environment. There are no shoulders. The following key issues have been highlighted:

1. No pedestrian paths – making it extremely unsafe for both students walking/riding to school and if parents park outside and walk into school.
2. No pedestrian crossings – This cannot be placed on this rural road.
3. No bike paths of safe cycle ways
4. No/limited bus infrastructure
5. No level or even access, no kerbs, no drainage, or water retention,
6. Limited street lighting
7. Poor water catchment

All of these further state that it is not safe nor should these things be put on this road as it is a RURAL area that is not designed for a project of this magnitude.

There is extensive damage already on the roads, when they were just repaired about 3 weeks ago. It is again full of pot holes – and you have to drive all over the road to avoid them. The pot holes and damage will only increase with more traffic and accidents will happen as it is unsafe especially when people are running late and impatient.

1 SEARs 3. Design Quality: Good design in accordance with the seven objectives for good design in “Better Placed”.

1.1 Background:

In regards to “Better Placed” warns about indicators of poor design outcomes, specifically:

“POOR ‘FIT’ AND NOT RESPONDING TO CONTEXT: A community’s sense of place can be undermined and existing attractors devalued when: Design has little sense of the ‘local’ character, materials or landscape”.

Page 19 also stated that:

"Good design in the built environment is informed by and derived from its location, context and social setting. It is place-based and relevant to and resonant with local character, heritage and communal aspirations".

1.2 Response:

The people who are developing this project did not speak with the local community on the design of the school at all or if it fits in with the landscape and has therefore rendered the development out of context of the local character. The evidence for this statement is basically that the development has failed to engage the local community, has failed to understand the local heritage and has opted for a design that is foreign to the culture and heritage of the local community and farming background of the local area. For example:

Page 64 of the EIS states with respect to design: "Consideration of the three cultures (Aboriginal, Islamic and Fijian) with a key relationship with the school". The design of the school is not in keeping with the local community. No effort has been made to design the school to fit into a feature or the heritage of the local community, which is not Fijian/Islamic. According to the ABS census 2021, over 70% of Catherine Field has an ancestry that is (in descending order) Australian, English, Italian, Maltese and Chinese. The development does not consider a design that is consistent with the nearby historic "Oran Park house" and there has been no effort to study any heritage in the local community, especially Raby House in Catherine Field which has a pioneering agricultural history dating to the early 1800's. No attempt has been made to recognise the significance and architecture of Raby House, a Heritage listed homestead in Catherine Field, dating back to c.1820 for the original house and c. 1875 for the main house. We request the architecture reflect the rural heritage and rural nature of Catherine Field, to compliment the aboriginal heritage architecture. According to 2021 census data published by ABS3: In Green Valley, Fijian is represented as the third highest country of birth (excluding Australian). Fijian is not listed as an ancestry from anyone in Catherine Field4. In fact, over 70% of Catherine Field has an ancestry that is, in descending order, Australian, English, Italian, Maltese and Chinese.

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3.0. This states that the 2016 Census was employed to analyse the surrounding area of Catherine Field. Since this time (6 years) we have seen many immense changes to the local area that would have a considerable impact on this analysis and the impacts on the community at large and a better picture of the local demographics.

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4.0 Community Consultation.

It was stated that 945 flyers went out to let the community know about the school. But many residents, including those close to the site did not receive any notification at all, I do not believe that this many flyers went out at all. Or maybe they did it in a different LGA. The 'session' they advertised was extremely unorganized and changed at the last minute and no follow up was made to the residence that did not attend the session or who were given a flyer.

It also states that 17 neighbours were invited to another session, but they don't know anything about this, where is the proof that this happened. I assure you if I was notified I would have attended. This can be further proved as we have had several meetings ourselves with the local communities and get 50-100 people each time. People do want to have their say and make time IF they know about it.

The report also mentions stakeholder meetings and briefings, but provides no further details of these so called meetings. What was discussed? What has happened as a result?

Page 2: Bullet point Way of Life

The report says that the following impact categories should be considered.

Way of Life.

- Will privacy, peace and quiet enjoyment significantly change for the neighbours and the local area, particularly changes to people's daily lives and activities during both construction and operation.

This has not been addressed at all. They claim minimal impact – this is being brushed under the carpet. This does not capture feedback provided to date in relation to the disruption of the existing lifestyle associated with Rural zoning of the land and the keeping of animals on properties.

This is a significant factor that I want addressed – we can survey the people that have a school built next to them of this size in a similar rural area and assess their concerns, I can assure you that these are very significant and frustrating circumstances they have to deal with every day. One person at our meetings explained they moved to Catherine field to get away from a school that was built right next to them in Kemps Creek.

I would never buy a house that was located near a school and would be moving if this is approved because I will not live this close to a school and want a rural outlook for myself and my children.

Continuous noise pollution in an extremely quiet area. I know how noisy the school is that I work at. 1580 kids plus teachers make a lot of noise plus the bells going off constantly, then the noise from the sporting fields. Kids walking how and walking all over people's yards. This is not ok for a rural area and no consideration for the neighbours or the local fauna has been considered. For example, just before I sat down to write this, I was

helping two ducks and their ducklings cross the road – they would be killed with this increase in traffic. Furthermore we have possums that cross the road constantly and if the school is opened til 10pm again risking the lives of local animals due to increase in traffic. Its bad enough I have to look in the distance and see Oran park town with all the lights and buildings. This is not the outlook of Catherine field. Furthermore, the report does not state the impacts of the lights that will be on for the very late hours that are stated. What about the impacts of this lighting to neighbours and their privacy and general living. What if they do night shift and have to sleep in the day.

Pollution in general – because who knows where there human waste will go to? I wasn't allow to put in an extra toilet at my house but this school can have 1580+ people without town **sewer!** This cannot be ok. Where is the waste management plan showing exactly how waste will be managed at each stage including early works component of the development including demolition works and some preliminary construction works.

Flooding is a massive problem on Catherine field road, This is especially true directly where this site is. We have videos showing the flooding outside of this site. What will happen when the entire 10 acre is covered in concrete and massive tin roofs, where could the water possibly go! Furthermore, with the flooding on the road, often the road is closed, what will this mean for the traffic? How will people get into the site, this again would cause further delays on the road and problems for other road users and the neighbours, with people or driving on the edges of the roads- further damaging the roads and front yards of residence.

- How will people be affected if traffic/parking demands or noise levels change? The report acknowledges that there will be additional noise through traffic and parking demands but states this is in line with planned future development. There has been no planned future development released for this area or Catherine Field. Why can they make comments like this to justify the increased problems with traffic and parking but supply no supporting evidence. The plan does not explain how people would be affected this has not been addressed.

There is no Stormwater Management Plan because there is NO STORM water drains in Catherine field.

Problems with the neighbours and

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- Surroundings - This has not been addressed.

This includes impacts to public open space, public facilities, neighbours and streets.

Also includes impacts during construction and will construction or operation affect public safety for pedestrians, children drivers or cyclists. The over use of local facilities that are there for the public to use at their leisure such as the tennis courts, basketball courts and baseball fields.

Not to mention the Mosque that will also be built on the site attracting people both before, during and after school til late hours and the same on weekends.

I have studied other schools like the one that was built in Austral and Kemps creek and the amount of traffic these schools have caused in similar geographic locations such as the site in Catherine Field. Residents around those schools have described to me the chaos of people parking anywhere and everywhere including on their property and fighting with them about it, and police and council have done nothing to help.

Not to mention various other issues such as the sewer, water run off from so may super large buildings and car parks/concreted playgrounds - in front of the proposed area is a flood area - the road has been covered in water - the entire Catherine Field suffers with pot holes and unsafe road conditions without the added traffic.

Not to mention the internet service we already have is terrible without adding a school!

I am so concerned of the impact to residents, please let me know your stance on this and what you are doing to voice these concerns to others.

According to the 2016 census data (the lastest, 2020 is not realeased until Oct) there are 2% of residence in Camden that are Islamic. Therefore an Islamic school is not needed in the area. Therefore they will be bringing even more traffic from Liverpool through to Camden each day creating unnecessary traffic when people are trying to get to school and work.

Rain run off – just from the two halls alone would be unbelievable amount of water, the block is already on a slope and already without the roof the road in front of the proposed sites floods immensely- how will the traffic be then when you cant drive on the road as its closed due to flooding – how will the students get in and out of school in heavy rain? Or in an emergency.

There is currently not enough teachers for the schools already.

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3 Primary schools are named which include Barramurra, Gledswood Hills Public School and St Justin's Catholic Parish Primary. Also stating that no public high schools are in the area.

I don't believe this is an exhaustive list. They have not considered Narellan Vale High School, Oran Park Public and Oran Park High School, St gregorys college, Macathur Anglican are some that I found which were not listed. There could be others. The small percentage of parents who can afford to send their kids to this very expensive private school is limited. Again narrowing the scope of people that would attend this school especially in the

Camden LGA. Furthermore, this school is not inclusive of students who come from the lgbtqia+ (in regards to sexuality) – as stated on their website they cater for Girls and boys. As this religious group do not believe that people are anything but boys and girls and are unaccepting of the lgbtqia+ community. As a new school, are they catering for students in the lgbtqia+ group by creating spaces that don't specify boys and girls change rooms and toilets. For both staff and students.

I believe there is a rare plant/tree on this land also.

Shouldn't this be fully green walled and have all roof areas with eco friendly heat reflective roofs. When something is eco-friendly, it is not harmful to its surroundings and the environment. These products and materials may also encourage green practices, such as pollution reduction and conservation of natural resources.

There is huge loss of agricultural land, losing valuable primary industry lands

Camden's rural character and heritage.

"The report was very clear (raising issues) from traffic concerns as to an increase in movements and the inability of the road to be able to cope with those movements

This school would not accommodate people living in the Camden LGA. There is several schools already in Oran park, that do accommodate the local needs of the religious affiliations in Camden LGA.

Look at the current vacancies for teachers, they are immense. This school would prevent teachers from taking up jobs in local public schools.

The infrastructure for this development is simply not fit for this location in any way.