

18 June 2026

RE: Objection to SSD-68287712 Douglas Park Memorial Park – Concept Plan and Stage 1

Our young family has lived in the broader Macarthur region for many years before relocating to Douglas Park in January 2024. A key reason for moving to this area was to provide a healthier, quieter environment for my young daughter, son and elderly mother, both of whom suffer from chronic asthma. We carefully chose Douglas Park for its rural character, cleaner air, and peaceful surroundings, which are essential to supporting their health and wellbeing.

Since settling here, we have taken a strong interest in local planning matters that may affect the environment and quality of life in the community. Having reviewed the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and related documentation for SSD-68287712, we wish to formally object to the proposal.

This submission should not be interpreted as opposition to cemeteries or crematoria in general, nor to the need to provide for future burial requirements across Sydney. As a young family, we understand the importance of long-term community infrastructure and planning for future generations. However, our concerns relate specifically to whether this proposal—at this scale and in this location—is appropriate, safe, and in the best interests of families like ours and the broader Douglas Park community.

From our perspective as recent residents who deliberately chose this area for its environmental qualities and health benefits, the proposal raises serious concerns across several key areas:

1. The proposal appears inconsistent with emerging planning controls and the intended character of rural areas like Douglas Park.
2. There is no clear or demonstrated need for a development of this scale in this location, particularly given existing and approved capacity elsewhere.
3. The physical characteristics of the site raise concerns about suitability, including extensive excavation, dust generation, and long-term environmental risks—issues that are especially troubling for households managing chronic respiratory conditions.
4. Traffic, environmental, and social impact assessments do not adequately reflect the lived reality of local families or the constraints of the surrounding road network.
5. Community consultation has not meaningfully captured the concerns of residents, particularly families who are directly impacted by environmental and health factors.
6. Overall, the proposal does not align with the expectations of families who have moved to Douglas Park for a safer, quieter, and healthier way of life.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the proposal not be approved in its current form.

Need and Local Context

As a young family, long-term planning outcomes matter to us. We are concerned that the justification for this proposal relies on a generalised claim of burial demand that does not appear to reflect the current reality in south-west Sydney.

There are already significant existing and approved cemetery developments within reasonable proximity to the Macarthur region. From a family perspective, this raises the question of why such a large-scale facility must be located in a small, rural village like Douglas Park—particularly when access is difficult and the area is not centrally located to broader Sydney populations.

We chose this community because it is not a major urban centre. Introducing infrastructure of this scale risks fundamentally changing the character of the area and undermining the very qualities that attract young families to settle here.

Site Suitability and Health Concerns

Our decision to relocate to Douglas Park was strongly influenced by the cleaner air and quieter rural environment, which are critical for managing asthma within our household. The proposed development raises serious concerns in this regard.

The scale of excavation, rock breaking, and ongoing earthworks required to construct the cemetery suggests prolonged periods of dust, vibration, and disturbance. For families like ours, even modest increases in airborne particles or environmental disruption can have real health consequences.

In addition, the site's physical characteristics—limited soil depth, underlying rock, and proximity to natural water systems—raise concerns about whether the land is being heavily engineered to accommodate a use it is not naturally suited for. From a common-sense perspective as residents, this creates uncertainty about long-term stability, environmental safety, and ongoing impacts.

Traffic, Access, and Safety

As parents, road safety and accessibility are major considerations in our daily lives. The road network surrounding Douglas Park, particularly the gorge crossing, is already constrained and at times unsafe.

The scale of the proposed development would bring a substantial increase in traffic, including large vehicles and concentrated visitation during services. This is difficult to reconcile with the existing road conditions, which include narrow sections, steep terrain, and limited capacity.

We are concerned that the assessments provided do not fully reflect these realities or the cumulative impact on residents who rely on these roads daily—for school, medical appointments, and essential travel.

Community and Consultation

Since moving here, we have valued the sense of community in Douglas Park. However, it is our view that the consultation process for this proposal has not genuinely reflected community concerns.

As a young family, our priorities—health, safety, environment, and long-term livability—do not appear to have been meaningfully captured in the supporting assessments. Many discussions and concerns raised by residents have not been adequately documented or addressed.

This has contributed to a broader sense that the voices of local families have not been properly considered in a proposal that will significantly impact our daily lives.

Conclusion

For our family, the decision to move to Douglas Park was a conscious investment in a healthier and more sustainable lifestyle—particularly to support vulnerable members of our household.

The proposal, in its current form, introduces a level of environmental, traffic, and long-term uncertainty that is incompatible with those priorities. It does not reflect the scale, character, or capacity of this community, nor does it align with the expectations of families who have chosen to live here.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that SSD-68287712 not be approved. At a minimum, it should be subject to further detailed assessment and genuine community consultation that properly considers the impacts on local families.

This submission, along with my contact information, can be made public without redaction.

Regards,

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