

Application Details

Applicant Name: Green Valley Islamic College Ltd

("Minarah College, Catherine Field")

Application Number: SSD-30759158

Project Name: Minarah College

EXHIBITION OF STATE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION

Minarah College, Catherine Field

Application No	SSD-30759158
Location	268-278 Catherine Fields Road, Catherine Field
Applicant	Green Valley Islamic College Ltd
Council Area	Camden
Consent Authority	Minister for Planning or Independent Planning Commission

Statement

Based on the information provided in the Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") and Supporting Appendices, I would like to **OBJECT** to the proposal.

Reasons why I OBJECT to the Proposal

1. SEARs 9. Traffic, Transport & Accessibility

- I OBJECT against the proposal "Minarah College" (Application Number SSD-30759158) because I do not believe that the SEARs requirements of 9. Traffic, Transport & Accessibility have been satisfied by Ason Group's "Surveyed Traffic Volumes" as it was conducted during Covid-19, being a 'pandemic event' as declared by the World Health Organisation. Ason group themselves state on pages 24-25 "This has a potential impact on the integrity and consistency of any traffic surveys undertaken during this period"
- Increased Traffic – If the Minarah College proposal goes ahead, this will cause major disruption to the residents of Catherine Fields. Increased traffic flow will cause major disruption to families trying to take children to school in the morning and afternoon pickup from school. Furthermore, families travelling to work in the morning will be greatly impacted by the increased volume of traffic as well.
- Of major concern is that as the roads in Catherine Field are only single lane roads, the exit to Bringelly Road or Camden Valley Way Road will be clogged up with the cars from parents and buses coming and going from Minarah College. Minarah College, is planned to accommodate 1,580 students. That's a lot of cars and buses coming into Catherine Field and lining the streets to exit Catherine Fields. I am highly concerned of the long

wait times, I and other families in the Catherine Field area will have to endure. "We will be stuck" in our own street trying to get children to school and ourselves to work".

- In addition, I am concerned of my ability to get to work on time and my children to school on time. I am concerned of loss of employment as a direct consequence of being late to work and children receiving late notes from the school for being late to school.
- If the state government passes the Monarah College proposal, it would cause so much disruption and heart ache to the residents of Catherine Fields.
- This is very unfair for the State Government to place such a hardship on the residents of Catherine Fields.

On this basis I STRONGLY Object to the Minarah College proposal.

2. SEARs 11. Noise & Vibration

- Once again, I do not believe that the SEARs requirements of 11. Noise and Vibration have been met as the assessment carried out by Day Design Pty Ltd's "Measured Ambient Noise Level", for the following reasons.
 - (a) The noise and vibration assessment were conducted during Covid-19 lockdown and
 - (b) secondly due to their admission of a missing noise logger at 'Location A' for 18 days out of the 25 days.
- I am of the strong view that this report is inaccurate, false and misleading and incomplete.
- I feel this report fails to accurately represent completeness, accuracy, quality, and clarity of the information in the EIS.

On this basis I STRONGLY Object to the Minarah College proposal.

3. Sears 20: Social Impact:

- I OBJECT against the proposal "Minarah College" (Application Number SSD-30759158) because the proposal is out of character to the area, as it is altering a rural landscape to one of commercial.
- Page 11 of the Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") lists the feasible alternatives that were investigated. One of these scenarios was the "Do Nothing", approach which will result in "the site remaining predominantly rural,

unplanned, and unserved”. I strongly support the Do-Nothing approach, which leaves the site “predominantly rural”.

Extract

Feasible Alternatives

Minarah College identified three project alternatives which were considered in respect to the identified need for the educational establishment. Each of these options is listed and discussed in the following table.

Table 1 Project Alternatives

Option	Assessment
Do Nothing	<p>The 'Do Nothing' approach would result in the site remaining predominantly rural, unplanned, and unserved.</p> <p>The consequences of not carrying out the project are far reaching and include failure to support the growing demand of Minarah College Green Valley and failure to support the predicted population growth of Catherine Field, and surrounding suburbs which form part of the South West Growth Area.</p> <p>The Western City District Plan outlines that a significant population growth is expected in Camden local government area (LGA), specifically for children and young people.</p> <p>Over the 20 years to 2036, projections show an expected increase of 24,950 children aged four years and younger, with 41 per cent of this growth in Camden local government area.</p> <p>The population growth data alone illustrates the need and likely demand for early education and childcare facilities and schools. Minarah College would cater for growing population by providing a diverse education facility in a growth area.</p> <p>Without Minarah College, there could be a significant undersupply in private school education opportunities which cater for a diverse cross section of people.</p>

- I chose to live in Catherine Field because its rural and have lived here for 15 years, enjoying, and appreciating the beautiful rural region with my husband and children. Since the day we heard about the Minarah College proposal, we now live in fear that this proposal will greatly transform and ruin this beautiful rural place we have lived in and will take away and transform Catherine Field into something commercial.
- As residents of Catherine Field, we are left feeling that our rights and wants are no longer valued and ignored by both local and state government. How can state and local governments stand by and cause such heart ache to the residents of Catherine Fields. When has it become ok that those with deep pockets can go about their business and change and ruin a beautiful rural area and the poor residents from Catherine Fields, most from working class families, farmers, elderly people feel that they have no rights because they do not have deep pockets to fight such cashed up organizations. This is so not Australian. THIS IS NOT RIGHT.

- Governments talk about the importance of protecting and conserving the environment, its eco systems and wildlife. If this submission (Application Number SSD-30759158) goes ahead it will ruin the beautiful environment in Catherine Field. With the developments in Oran Park, Harrington Park, Gregory Hills, Smeaton Grange, many animals, and wildlife have become displaced. This is evident today by the fact that in Catherine Fields you see so many red belly black snakes, brown snakes, turtles, wallabies, and kangaroos roaming in the area. 10 years ago, this was not the case. Why? Because their natural habitat has been taken away and destroyed because developers and governments are more interested in making money then preserving and protecting the environment.
- As a government, please consider not approving the “Minarah College” proposal as once the development goes ahead, the place is destroyed and the beauty that was once Catherine Fields will be gone forever and can never be returned. Please leave Catherine Filed as a “rural, unplanned and unserved” area with no College/School in it.

On this basis I STRONGLY Object to the Minarah College proposal.

4. Sears 20: Social Impact:

Page 10 of the Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”) explains the intended outcomes of the project as listed below.

Extract

The intended outcomes of the project are to:

- Provide a diversity of learning spaces and associated facilities that will meet contemporary learning standards.
- Utilise design elements to provide sustainable outcomes for the development as well as reflect Islamic, Fijian and indigenous cultural beliefs.
- Providing social and economic benefits to the local community through job creation and educational opportunities.

The Catherine Field community does not have a Fijian Muslim community residing in it. It simply doesn't exist. The Minarah College will be serving a community that resides outside of Catherine Field. Hence, the people residing in Catherine Field will not benefit from this school, Minarah College.

On this basis I STRONGLY Object to the Minarah College proposal.

5. Sears 20: Social Impact:

- In relation to the Social Impact Assessment Report titled “Proposed New Education Establishment – Minarah College Catherine Field, 268 & 278 Catherine Fields Road Catherine Field” prepared by Sarah George Consulting. It

lists on page iii point **4.0 Community Consultation** methods of community consultation that was undertaken. See extract below;

Extract

4.0 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

As required under the SEARs, community consultation was undertaken as part of the preparation of the application.

Community consultation was undertaken by Australian Public Affairs, the outcomes of which are included in the *Minarah College – Catherine Field Consultations Outcomes Report, December 2021*.

The community consultation was undertaken via the following methods:

- Invitation to participate in online community sessions advertised to the community through flyers delivered to 945 residential dwellings and 8 commercial premises surrounding the subject site;
- Detailed letters delivered with the flyer to 17 adjacent neighbours inviting them to a dedicated online information session for immediate neighbours only;
- Media coverage and an advertisement in the *Camden-Narellan Times*;
- Dedicated project website and information on the Minarah College Green Valley website;
- Dedicated project email for the community and stakeholders to ask questions and provide feedback during the consultation phase;
- Opportunities to contact the project team via the Minarah College Green Valley phone number;
- Stakeholder meetings and briefings including telephone and video conferencing discussions with individual stakeholders and groups;
- Stakeholder correspondence by email to individuals and organisations and groups including provision of an information sheet and community Q&A document;
- Updates to community and stakeholders.

35 people registered to participate in online sessions for general community members, with 28 joining the session. Follow up phone calls, emails and on-on-one and group meetings occurred from the session. Community feedback was provided by phone, email and via a feedback form.

There were no registrations for the dedicated online community session for near neighbours, but some near neighbours attended the general community session.

One meeting was held with the State Member for Camden and the Principal of Minarah College on 3 December 2021.

- As a resident of Catherine Field, I note there was a lack of community awareness about the proposal due to not many people receiving the flyers and they only offered one zoom session on a weekday. If you didn't receive the flyer then you didn't know about the zoom session and therefore missed out.
- The newspaper "Camden-Narellan Times" no longer gets delivered to Catherine Field so again many people in particular elderly people would not have been aware of this proposal nor that an advertisement was placed in the paper.
- I have not seen any Media coverage on T.V to alert me of this proposal.
- I was never asked to participate in a meeting for discussion.

- **On this basis I STRONGLY Object to the Minarah College proposal, because of the lack of community awareness and the lack of engagement with the local community.**

6. Sears 20: Social Impact:

- Furthermore, in relation to the Social Impact Assessment Report titled “Proposed New Education Establishment – Minarah College Catherine Field, 268 & 278 Catherine Fields Road Catherine Field” prepared by Sarah George Consulting, it talks about the lack of schools in the area. It lists on page 6 the current schools in the area. See extract below;

Extract

The closest primary schools are:

- Barramurra Public School (K-6) at 65 O’Keefe Drive, Oran Park, approximately 3.2km (straight line) and 5.2km driving distance from the subject site
- Gledswood Hills Public School (K-6) at 78 The Hermitage Way, Gledswood Hills, approximately 3.2km (straight line measure) and 4.2km (driving distance) from the subject site
- St Justin’s Catholic Parish Primary School (K-6), 3 Hollows Drive, Oran Park, approximately 3.5km (straight line measure) and 5.7km (driving distance) from the subject site.

There are no public high schools in the area, and there is only one independent High School – St Benedict’s Catholic College (7-12), 1 Hollows Drive, Oran Park, approximately 3.5km (straight line measure) and 5.7km (driving distance) from the subject site.

- This list is misleading as they have not listed other schools in the area such as, Narellan Vale High School, Oran Park Public and Oran Park High School, Macathur Anglican and Rosemore Public School.

On this basis I STRONGLY Object to the Minarah College proposal, because of the lack of accurate information being provided in its reports.

Conclusion

In conclusion I STRONGLY Object to the Minarah College proposal as it will greatly impact the Catherine Field Community for the reasons stated above.