

Director - Social and Infrastructure Assessments
Planning and Assessment
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

22 July 2024

Dear Sir or Madam

**NEW HIGH SCHOOL IN BUNGENDORE
APPLICATION NO. SSD-14394209**

I refer to the above state-significant development application and the updated SSDA lodged by the Department of Education.

I strongly object to the proposed development.

The Department of Education has not addressed the matters set out in detailed objections lodged by community members in response to the two previous iterations of this proposal. It must be required to prepare a proper Response to Submissions which addresses matters raised by the Community.

The revised application is nothing more than a fraud on the community. The Applicant is pretending to seek development consent for half a school, with no gym, no oval, no canteen and no amenities block. How is that even a proper high school?

Apparently there will be an additional DA at some undetermined time in future for additional works, but no one has any idea if and when this happens.

It is illogical to put a development proposal on public exhibition when that proposal is incomplete. It is impossible for the community to understand what is going on.

Why has the Department removed these works from the development? Do schools in NSW no longer require a hall, a canteen or gymnasium? Or is the DoE still trying to find a legal planning pathway to manage the Crown land issues it should have known about way back in 2020 if it hadn't been so ludicrously incompetent?

How can the community stand by while the "dual track" split DA process blatantly attempts to bypass Crown land law?

The Minister for Crown Land refused consent for this development due to legal breaches. Why is the DoE expecting the Department of Planning and QPRC to ignore this? How is it in the public interest to try to hoodwink Council into approving something when the Minister has already said no?

Why has the DoE never been required to assess its plans' consistency with the State Strategic Plan for Crown Land? This project involves taking a substantial portion of Crown land and using another in violation of the law. Why does the DoE think the State Strategic Plan for Crown Land is irrelevant?

The materials on the Major Projects website are overwhelming and contradictory. The "separate planning pathway" for Crown land works is unclear, leaving the public in the dark.

Compensation for the Council's compulsory acquisition of Crown land cannot legally be used for proposed replacement facilities in Bungendore. No one knows how to fund replacement community facilities. After four years, we still have no answers.

The long-term plans for Bungendore Pool are a mystery. Why isn't this addressed in the DA? How can we understand the future plans?

Closing Majara Street was never approved by the Council, causing traffic and parking chaos around the railway station and Primary School. This will worsen if the High School is built, yet the DoE relies on outdated traffic studies done during Covid. Why aren't they using current data? How is this acceptable?

There's not just lead but also asbestos. What else will they find? How will this impact children?

They're removing access to the ag plot, including toilets and storage facilities. Do they expect kids to cross the road for a toilet break in the middle of class? How will agricultural equipment be brought in? Is this an attempt to circumvent Crown land law?

Major expansion is proposed for Bungendore Preschool, right across from the high school. The DA doesn't consider this. Ensuring safe access for both young children and inexperienced drivers is impossible. This is a disaster waiting to happen.

What's going on with Balladeers' Place? Four years in and no resolution in sight.

How is the school supposed to function without an Oval? The new DA contradicts the original, which stated the Oval would be used exclusively by the school. Has the DoE decided an Oval isn't needed, or is this another lie to bypass Crown land law?

The revised plans are significantly smaller than the original, with a large reduction in both floor area and open space. Yet the estimated capacity remains the same. How does this work? Why does Bungendore High get only 2.5ha when minimum standards require 4ha and Googong gets 9ha?

The Transport Assessment states that 342 Year 6 students in the Bungendore High School catchment area will be zoned to the new school. This suggests a student cohort exceeding capacity and traffic estimates for this small site. How will this work?

The Transport Assessment shows most kids will travel from outside Bungendore, making unrealistic assumptions about car-pooling and bus travel based on densely-populated areas. It relies on aspirational targets rather than proper analysis. It's a joke.

The Department of Planning and Environment requested proper catchment data from DoE in October 2022, but it was not provided. Why has the DoE refused to provide this information? How can a development be approved when this basic information is concealed?

There is no parking. The DoE is delusional if it thinks the limited spaces on and around the tiny school site will suffice. Railway users already struggle with parking. Why has this never been addressed?

Outdoor play areas meet minimum standards only because thoroughfares and pathways are counted as “play spaces”. Are they pathways or playgrounds? Can you imagine kids playing ball games in the main thoroughfares? It’s a joke. As the school expands, what little open space there is will be swallowed up.

The Bungendore community has suffered enough. This plan must be rejected once and for all.