

WINDELLAMA PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

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Submission to NSW Department of Planning re Multiquip Ardmore Park Quarry proposal

The Windellama Public School Parents and Citizens Association (Windellama P&C) would like to lodge a strenuous objection to the modifications contained in the Multiquip Ardmore Park Quarry's "Modification 2 – Alternate Haul Route" proposal. We believe it raises an unacceptable risk to the students and teachers of the school.

Windellama Public School is divided across two sides of the Windellama Road: the main school buildings on one side, and the sports grounds on the other. Students traverse the road on a daily basis for fitness classes; on a weekly basis for sports; and on a periodic basis for lunch periods. Times for these activities vary according to the school timetable, weather and other variables.

On a weekly basis, the school grounds – on either side of the road – play host to a playgroup involving parents and children from infancy up to five years of age. Parents and children arrive outside school zone hours, and therefore, will be coming and going during the periods when Multiquip's trucks are active on the roads. Given the narrow nature of the road outside the school, we deem this an unacceptable risk to parents with toddlers and pre-schoolers.

In addition to these activities, four other schools – accounting for a total of up to 150 children and 50 teachers and parents – attend the school on an annual basis for the cross country carnival, and periodically for cultural or educational activities as part of the Goulburn Community of Small Schools. During these events, the school grounds on both sides of the road are extensively used, with children and adults crossing the roads multiple times. The potential danger to children in these circumstances is acknowledged by Goulburn Mulwaree Council and the local Rural Fire Service, both of which have provided additional traffic management support (in the form of signs and fire trucks with hazard lights blazing) in an attempt to slow traffic during multi-school events.

The school is located between two blind bends on a 100km/hr section of road. To the left, the distance from the entrance gateway to the bend is 90 metres. To the right, it is just 50 metres. There is little forward vision for drivers and minimal audio cues for students and teachers when vehicles approach. Directly in front of the school, the width of the road is 6 metres. Twice a day the school bus makes a 180 degree turn across the road.

While we recognise that a relieving principal suggested to Multiquip earlier this year that the bare minimum requirement for school support would most likely be for Multiquip to observe a 40km/h speed limit at all times when truck pass the school, he advised the P&C that he also informed Multiquip that he couldn't speak on behalf of P&C or the permanent principal.

The P&C believes even a continual 40km/h speed limit cannot negate the danger of additional trucks on a narrow road, given the frequency and unpredictability of travel across the Windellama Road by students, the number of children crossing the roads, the blind bends, and the danger for children when parents drop off children in the morning, and pick up children in the afternoon.

Unless a fly-over walkway that connects the two school grounds can be provided, along with additional roadside access for parental pick ups and drop offs, we ask that the proposed modifications be refused.

Sincerely,

Heather Caulfield

Secretary

Windellama Public School P&C Association