



WINDELLAMA PUBLIC SCHOOL

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As the Principal of Windellama Public School and on behalf of the staff and students I would like to lodge my 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 staff of our school.

There has been a very large increase in general traffic on Windellama road in which our school is located. Since the opening of the Main Road 92 in late 2010, the type of local traffic has shifted considerably, with a large increase in cars towing boats and caravans. The school is located on a 100km/hr section of road between two blind bends one which is 90 metres and the other 60 metres away from the school and where we cross the road. There is little forward vision for drivers and it is difficult to hear vehicles approaching, especially in windy conditions. This fact is of great importance to our objection as Windellama Public School is a split site with Windellama Road in the middle. Students and staff traverse across the road on a regular basis at various times during the day for curriculum based activities. These activities such as fitness, sport, science etc. are an essential part of our daily school routine. Depending on the school timetable and weather conditions, we may make numerous crossings of Windellama road during school days.

The school receives many visitors during the day for both official and non-official business. Owing to the remoteness of the school, many passers-by drop into the school to ask for directions or to use the schools telephone as there is limited to no mobile phone coverage.

If travellers come across motor vehicle accidents along our stretch of the road, the school is visited by people wanting to use the phone to notify the emergency services. One such incident occurred a few years back when a highly agitated man sped into the school grounds to report a 2 car accident only a few hundred metres from the school. The principal Mr McCartney enacted the school lock down procedure as the man was highly distressed.

This was a very upsetting incident as the accident in question involved a fatality and the agitated man reporting the incident was the husband of the deceased driver. A young women who had a head on collision and her husband and young child were travelling in another vehicle. Moments such as these are very disturbing for all concerned. The students were panicked by the lockdown and later needed to pass the horrific accident scene on the school bus run home.

While accidents along our stretch of the rapidly deteriorating Windellama road will be unavoidable owing to the current increase in traffic, the proposed 1300 truck movements per annum along the route would logically increase the risk of further accidents. Taking into account that the proposal will have 10 truck movements a day (including return journeys) for the 5 school days a week and for the 40 school weeks, that actually collates to 2000 truck movements over the course of a year running through the middle of our school.

Our new school bus proprietors have been advised not to come into the school grounds and therefore turn onto the road outside of the school grounds. The bus drivers are very careful; however with heavy laden trucks passing this will become an extremely dangerous situation. We use the bus to attend school excursions at varying times of the day.

While we recognise that relieving principal Jonathan Taylor 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 their trucks pass the school, he also informed Multiquip that he couldn't speak on behalf of the P&C or the permanent principal. In the Multiquip proposal it reads like the school is happy to agree to the amended haul route based on the meeting and the conditions discussed. This is completely not the case.

As the permanent principal (and local resident) with a long history both teaching at the school and as a previous parent of the school, I have a much greater awareness of the dangers of any increase in traffic. I have liaised with our schools P&C as well as the community at large regarding this proposal and all are in agreement that it poses too much of a threat to our students, staff and our school community.

I reiterate that Windellama Public School is divided across both sides of the Windellama road. Apart from the regular curriculum based activities mentioned earlier. 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 parents and teachers attend the school on an annual basis for a 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. There has always been a problem in attempting to slow traffic during these school events.

Based on the information provided in the report for the proposal and in particular the fact that Multiquip propose to have 10 truck movements a day (including return journeys) for the 5 school days a week and for the 40 school weeks, that actually collates to 2000 truck movements over the course of a year running through the middle of our school. The school community, consisting of staff, parents including our school P&C totally object to the proposal and are prepared to take any action necessary to ensure that it does not precede.

I have notified the NSW Department of Education & Communities, along with The NSW Minister of Education through our local member Pru Goward of our objections.

Donna Edworthy

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