

11 October 2021

The Director  
Social and Infrastructure Assessments  
Planning and Assessment  
Department of Planning, Industry & Environment  
Locked Bag 5022  
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

**Proposal for a New High School in Bungendore      Reference: SSD – 14394209**

I refer to the above state-significant development application.

**I object to the location of the proposed Bungendore High School for the following reasons:**

- Ruins the historical ambience of the village, park including memorials, railway precinct and related buildings, and ignores the legislation pertaining to the area.
- Impedes residents and visitors activities in a well-loved and well used green space and amenities including the off leash dog park. Many travellers use the proposed site(s) as a rest stop and recreation facility which will be constrained by the proposed school.
- The proposed site, supposedly based on flood information, is still inadequate as the site is subject to flooding and no information available of comparisons done on other proposed sites.
- Access roads – McCusker Drive is subject to regular flooding and can cut off access to the site from the north for several days at a time. Nearby drains from Elmslea cause flooding over McCusker Drive and the foot bridge (foot and bicycle traffic) leading towards Butmaroo Street near the proposed high school. The proposed QPRC cleanup of the creek does not take into account the amount of runoff there is from nearby suburb(s), or hillside, which contributes to flooding of the causeway and surrounding area.
- McCusker Drive is a significant thoroughfare in the area and to be made a one way street will inconvenience many residents trying to get to their places of work, not just in Bungendore (this was not made upfront in the NSW Education Department's information session)
- Tarago Road is also affected by flooding. If both roads are affected at the same time there is no access to, or, from the north where a significant number of pupils are likely to live given that area is expanding and currently under development.
- Traffic congestion will be significant and the NSW Department of Education's assessment and proposals seem to be quite inadequate. There is insufficient space for pupil and teacher parking, drop off and pick as well as arrival and departure of buses carrying out of town pupils, besides the traffic that is involved with the nearby primary school. This will impede

on flow of traffic for other road users. The high school is not an end of journey or destination in itself. The roads in the area are used by others /residents to access main thoroughfares. The proposed road closure will cause significant detours for other road users particularly those heading south and east from surrounds.

- The site is too small even by NSW Department of Education guidelines.  
The location and size compromises the future expansion of the school and possible expansion of school activities. Significant residential development is progressing in other areas of Bungendore where a new high school would be better located and give the school plenty of room for expansion and the possibility of being co-located with a new primary school given the number of proposed blocks.
- The design of the school appears to be in contradiction to the height limitations for Bungendore.
- Location of school and access routes to the school so close to the railway is of concern. Already incidents of children on the railway and playing in railway property. The railway line was used (illegally) as access to the village when both McCusker Drive and Tarago Road were closed due to flooding.
- Public consultation on the site proposal for the high school has been contrived, not been open and transparent. Reasons given do not stack up against residential development and development proposals already happening in the Bungendore area.
- The location next to the primary school also has social welfare implications for primary pupils as well as limiting expansion of the primary school.

People are not opposed to having a high school in Bungendore - just the against the proposed location and the resulting inconveniences and impediments to the tourists to and residents of the area.

I have not, and no associate of mine, has made any political donation to any person in the 2 years preceding this submission.

Pearl van der Straaten

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