

Mrs Carolyn M E Cole

NSW 2621

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

Dear Sir or Madam

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

I refer to the above state-significant development application. I have not, and no associate of mine, has made any political donation to any person in the 2 years preceding this submission.

I **object** to the proposal on the following grounds:

It is wrong that a precious park that is supposed to enjoy the highest level of protection can be used to build an inadequate, undersized school. Bungendore's character and heritage will be destroyed with the construction of the high school on the town's only dedicated park. The park is Crown Land dedicated in the 1870s for public recreation. As highlighted in the Crown Land 2031 paper published earlier this year, such spaces are precious community assets that provide a safe environment for enjoyment by community groups of all ages, from tiny children learning to ride their bikes, to older children kicking a ball and older members of the community who love the ability to wander around the heritage centre of Bungendore, enjoying peace and tranquillity, safe from traffic hazards. Does this set a precedent for all other Crown Land in heritage centres with dedication for public recreation? If so, what is the point of having such levels of protection?

It is wrong that Bungendore's heritage centre, which includes the town's Post Office, a vital community service particularly for the elderly, will become clogged with traffic and buses as over 1,000 children attending the existing primary school and the new high school will be transported in by bus and car at drop off time and transported out again at the end of the school day. The area will become completely impossible for any local children to navigate safely on foot or on bicycles, leading parents to drive their children in instead, further adding to the traffic chaos. It will only be a matter of time before an elderly resident is injured or killed trying to get to the post office.

It is wrong that the Bungendore Railway precinct, which again is supposed to enjoy the highest level of protection will become nothing more than a bus interchange. Furthermore, newly discovered lead contamination in the railway station's parking areas, adjacent sidings and former loading areas will add further dangers to school communities.

It is wrong that an ideal site, identified by the NSW Dept of Planning, only 2.4kms from the Bungendore Primary School was rejected without explanation by the NSW Dept of Education. That site has ample room for expansion, it is adjacent to road infrastructure and the biggest population growth area of the town, which is currently under construction.

It is wrong that requests by the community for explanations for why the NSW Dept of Education has selected such an unsuitable, dangerous location for Bungendore's high school have been met with arrogant silence leading to a widely felt, strong belief that backroom dealing, collusion and corrupt practices dominate State level decision making.

Yours faithfully

C. M. E. COLE

11 OCTOBER 2021