

10/10/2021

Director - Social and Infrastructure Assessments
Planning and Assessment
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
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I object to SSDA 14394209: the current proposal in regards to a High School in Bungendore. I support a High School in Bungendore, **just NOT in the proposed location.**

I have concerns regarding whether the site is fit for this purpose and the poor quality of education that would be provided at this site. I also believe the Government will find it challenging to develop the site, and that the project would be better placed at another site.

The proposed site sits upon Bungendore Park (which includes Mike Sherd Oval and various other amenities). Bungendore Park was first established in the late 19th C and has been of importance to Bungendore ever since. Along with the two remaining churches, the police station, and the post office, it is one of the few remaining links to the history of Bungendore. I understand that it has also been home to the Bungendore Tigers (since 1908), and various other sporting elements.

Today it hosts the town swimming pool (**funded by the local community** in the early 1990s), the town's tennis courts, cricket nets, adult exercise equipment, a children's playground, public toilets, and a footpath that circumnavigates it. It is utilised by local families and people whom exercise every day. It is a well-placed and highly utilised area.

The Bungendore Park site contains the War Memorial (which will be surrounded by the proposed school), Poets' corner (a site dedicated to musical art and poetry), stone pines from Lone Pine at Gallipoli (sent from Suvla Bay by a fallen digger to his mother), heritage horse railing (out the front of council offices), the grave of an Indigenous man, and is adjacent to the post office, train station and pre-school (formerly a Catholic school) and the old convent. It abutts homes on Butmaroo St that have been heritage listed. All of these items are in their proper location now and are protected from over development, and change, by the **Crown Lands Act among other instruments of law including, but not limited to, heritage law, various environment laws, the ANZAC Memorial Act.**

It is difficult to understand why the Department of Education would want to build a high school on a site that is smaller (2.9Ha) than the published preferred area (4Ha) for a high school in regional NSW. Are there published references as to why there has been this 'change of mind'? It appears, from the current design, that the high school will have no oval, and limited other outdoor space. What's more, there is no room for the school to grow with the town, which is slated to double in population, within the decade. The three other high schools in the local government area, Queanbeyan, Karabar and Braidwood, all have abundant green spaces and school ovals.

If the Department decides to utilise the oval, it will fast become over-used and be rendered useless to the 400 odd users of the facility for winter sports (football, and rugby, both junior

and senior leagues). It is not enough to say that these sports will move to the new sports facility. There are only two fields there.

What is the quality of education that the school would be able to provide? We have been led to believe that the High School will share various amenities with the Primary School – including the gymnasium and School Library. At this time, those areas are FAR TOO SMALL, to add another 400+ students into the area; let alone a scheduling nightmare!

I imagine that the sharing of resources between the high school and the primary school will lead to a poorer quality of educational service for the primary school. I understand the primary school already performs below average in Naplan, and other areas. It would be catastrophic for the students of Bungendore to be hindered further than they are now. I believe the Department of Education and the NSW Government needs to rethink the proposed site and find an area more appropriate for Bungendore, that will offer the quality of education our children deserve.

Residents of Bungendore have now received a letter from the NSW Government, indicating the “**Detection of soil contamination at Bungendore**”. This area includes “the unofficial car park for the Bungendore Public School on the corner of Majara Street and Kings Highway and the woolshed which is used by the Lake George Men’s Shed.” (NSW Government letter to residents, September 2021.)

The Lead contamination is *far* too close to the Primary school. Why would anyone build a new High School on top of the contaminated area?

I shall just **note** - the very close proximity of the proposed school to the Railway Line!

On a personal note: if you remove our ‘common green’ from the middle of town, I believe we will never get it back. Thereby prejudicing thousands of individuals, of all ages!

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

Bari Hall-Saha

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