

Geoff Langford

[REDACTED]  
Bungendore NSW 2621.

15 October 2021

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 (SSD) application. As a resident of Bungendore since 1991, I strongly **object** to the proposal on multiple grounds as listed below:

**1. Failure to recognise townscape history**

The high school proposal does not respect or understand the Park's history. The Park is an integral part of the original town, around which some of the town's oldest buildings are located. It is at this site local army recruitments were assembled prior to leaving the town, for WW1 battlefields. For many it was the first time they had left the town and many never returned.

Removing the swimming pool also destroys a social memorial of importance to older residents of the town who collected money for its construction.

The school will destroy what is essentially an intact town landscape.

**2. Failure to construct to scale**

The proposed school buildings are of a size that is not consistent with the scale of the buildings facing Bungendore Park. In contrast, the school Hall and the Council sheds are not on the edge of the Park's perimeter, while the proposed high school intrudes into the Park's space.

The school proposal reproduces the same planning mistake that occurred with the construction of the IGA building: a very large structure fragmenting local building heights.

**3. Failure to recognise locale's social importance**

The proposed school will destroy a vernacular meeting place, that links north, central and eastern parts of the town. Evidence of this can be seen in the walking paths taken by residents across the area. Evidence can also be seen

on sports days when along the eastern side of the Park people picnic and watch sports activities from their cars.

**4. Failure to recognise Bungendore's lack of open space.**

While Bungendore is located in a rural environment it has very little public open space. This lack of open space is exacerbated by QPRC's failure to develop the railway walking path to Tarago and lack of advocacy in preventing the railway maintenance road being available to walkers. QPRC's indifference is particularly obvious in its lack of control of local nature strips. In allowing people to put rocks, railway sleepers, gardens caravans etc etc on their nature strip fronts, they force walkers onto the road. The only alternative is to use the very heavily used public spaces like the creek pathway and the ovals.

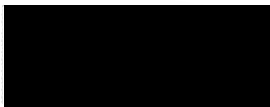
The school proposal effectively further reduces open space. In extracting an agriculture area from the off-lease dog area, the school proposal also reflects ignorance of a history of community action devoted to maintaining the creek open space and not having it divided by roads.

QPRC's lack of urban planning capacity is of central concern to this project. There is a growing sense within the community that QPRC lacks the resources and skills needed to engage in this project and provide an outcome that meets community needs and wishes. It appears that the high school proposal fails to recognise QPRC's lack of rural village planning values and interests.

Disclaimer:

In the two years preceding this submission, neither I, nor any associate of mine, has made a political donation to any person.

Yours faithfully,

A black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Geoff Langford.

Geoff Langford