

16 October 2021

Major Projects

RE: Proposed Bungendore High School

**SSDA-14394209 --- FORMAL OBJECTION**

Specific Objection Topic: **Destruction of Bungendore's ONLY Off Leash Dog Exercise area**

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a long-term resident of Bungendore I am extremely concerned with many issues to do with the proposed location of the Bungendore High School (BHS). By way of short background, I was for some time the IT Administrator at Palerang Council and therefore am **quite** familiar with Council, local government, planning, and probity issues. I have objections in all categories.

In this objection I wish to focus on the destruction of one of the town's most important areas, the Off Leash Dog Exercise area (as indicated on the map) . This area is **heavily** used by residents of all ages from early in the day through to late evening, 7 days a week. It is the **ONLY** dog exercise area in Bungendore and its loss would amount to criminal destruction by the DoE and the Council.



The area is central and the ENTIRE EXISTING AREA is used by residents from all areas of Bungendore and surrounding regions (e.g., Wamboin). While it is not ideal (specifically, it does not have a water source and is not properly protected from the adjoining roads by a proper low safety fence as exists for many other such dog exercise areas all around the State (I have used many of them in our travels in Sydney, NSW, and other states).

No one has been properly consulted about this area and to make matters worse the Information Sessions that were run throughout this process were quite dismissive of the concerns of the many dog owners who routinely use this facility and the access to and from it.

The area is also routinely used by people walking back to home after dropping their children at the existing school and the removal of this amenity would be a further needless destructive act on the daily cultural patterns of the town.

In short, one can only conclude that the entire handling of this proposal has been subject to sloppy Council processes, possibly \*corrupt\* negotiations between Mr Barilaro, the Department of Education, and the Council, malicious selective use of consultants (particularly the Heritage Consultant), and other unacceptable behaviour. Some of these matters are serious enough to require that the NSW ICAC take a proper look at the evolution of this proposal and the many ways in which the process has been perverted.

The deliberate overriding and abuse of proper planning processes, community consultation, and accurate representation of the town, its history, and the community involvement by Council and by its representatives, misleading information from the Department of Education all point to political meddling in what should be a much better, cleaner, and "above board" process which would enable Bungendore to develop a new High School for the \*long term\* future of this special historical village. As it stands the proposal and the manner in which it was developed all indicate it was a lazy, short-term, political "deal" for Council to squeeze money out of the State to fix its many financial missteps.

**None of these are reasons for the BHS as proposed to proceed.** Every indication is that the design, planning, and consultation processes are fatally flawed and could see the matter land in relevant Law or Planning Courts.

**I respectfully submit this objection to the proposed BHS in the strongest possible terms.**

I respectfully submit that this perverted process should NOT stop the development of a proper, built for the future, new Bungendore High School on appropriate green fields lands to the north or the south of the village, as was originally proposed before the dubious negotiations with Council came about.

I reserve the right to recommend to ICAC that they investigate this entire questionable and dodgy process and the resulting "deal" which has been dumped on the citizens of Bungendore, with minimal and flawed consultation processes, and highly suspect Council processes.

Yours sincerely,

*Russell (signed)*

Dr Russell Darroch

Bungendore NSW 2621