

17 Oct 2021

OBJECTION TO PROPOSED SITE FOR BUNGENDORE HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Sir, Madam,

I wish to strongly object to the proposed site for Bungendore High School. The acquisition of large sections of Bungendore Park represents an unnecessary and significant loss of public amenity to the community of Bungendore and surrounding areas.

Many of the arguments presented in the Development Application require an independent and objective review as they are not facts based. The most significant of these is the suggestion that there are no other suitable sites. Much of the problem in this regard results from Mr Barilaro's announcement of the new High School as a political stunt prior to the Department of Education completing its analysis and negotiations. Prior to that time there were at least three shortlisted locations but one presumes that the potential price rose substantially after Barilaro's announcement. Bungendore is surrounded by undeveloped land and it is nonsense to suggest that other suitable sites are not available.

The proposed site would result in the loss of a number of community spaces with the swimming pool being one of the more obvious. The park is the only open space that is not subject to flooding and should therefore be kept available as an evacuation and recreation area as after flooding events other areas are subject to mud and debris.

I am particularly concerned at the arbitrariness of this proposed planning outcome with the EIS completed by a Sydney based company with no apparent knowledge or understanding of the local area. One also wonders whether it is a problem associated with the merger of Palerang with Queanbeyan Councils. Bungendore used to have a sound long-term plan that involved amongst other things the construction of a road bridge across Turallo Creek to join Butmaroo Street with Birch Drive. The original Elmslea Development and road layout was based on that plan. When the time came for the bridge to be built a successful campaign by the residents of Turallo Terrace resulted in the illogical decision to build the bridge, and increase road traffic, next to the Kindergarten, Scout Hall and Primary School. The proposed High School location will create further traffic flow issues on the new major access route into Elmslea, and its future Stages, and needlessly increase the safety risk to yet more children.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Simon Blake

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