

BHS-SSDA – Objection LEAD RISK ebm ltr 17Oct2021

SSDA-14394209 --- BUNGENDORE HIGH SCHOOL

FORMAL OBJECTION

*This is a one-topic first objection to be lodged by Emma Brooks Maher.
I have been having difficulties with the DPIE Planning Portal, so this one-off is being
lodged as a test-document to see/verify whether the system recognises my account.*

*It is however, a serious submission on an important topic – **17 October 2021***

In regard to the above SSDA-14394209, I believe that the whole proposal has been called into serious question by a recent announcement by Transport NSW concerning the possibility of “excessive” and “elevated levels” of lead in close proximity to the proposed site for a new Bungendore High School (**BHS**).

The first area is the carpark in Bungendore Station forecourt – and it so happens that this is actually mentioned in the SSDA for potential use by school users. According to Transport NSW webinar last week, this forecourt is of grave concern with particular reference to children at Bungendore Primary School which is directly opposite. Transport NSW has already identified the area as a real risk, and safety screening has now been erected to prevent public access.

This forecourt is just metres from the new Gibraltar St roundabout and proposed entrance to the new BHS – in fact it is only separated from the carparking by 16 Majara St, namely the Stationmasters Cottage and yard. Such proximity must be factored into any consideration of the SSDA. According to emails in the EIS (pp 328/9)

However, having heard what the webinar said in regard to the use of open-wagons for carrying the lead ore, and how contamination levels greatly increase in areas in and alongside the actual tracks, and this even moreso when combined with train speed and momentum around curves – for me, this has raised a whole new area of concern in regard to the proposed location of BHS – the BHS school site itself. That 2m high rear fence runs right along the rail corridor, and just metres away are the tracks that trains would speed around it as they departed the station. The Turallo Terrace entrance to the school is right near that sweeping curve of the rail line. On the principle of better-safe-than-sorry, this whole area must be treated as a prime danger zone for lead-spill.

Apart from the webinar, I am also keenly aware of news story from mid-2020, when serious lead contamination was discovered in Tarago, it involved children and school premises and required a major remediation program, co-ordinated by both Transport NSW and John Holland Rail.

It would be idiocy to allow a new school to opened in an area where there is any risk that similar rectification might be needed after it is built.

Students and lead simply mustn't mix.

On this basis, and in the strongest possible terms, I object to any further consideration of SSDA-14394209 unless and until the Transport NSW investigations can report that the BHS site is 100% all clear. And this objection is doubled, and becomes ongoing if indeed, if any lead contamination is found, no matter how residual.

I also object should anyone feel that this matter can be resolved by "conditioning".

It should also be remembered that the SSDA includes reference to improvements for the Bungendore Primary School. I object to the way these much-needed upgrade plans have somehow become interlinked within the DoE proposal re a new High School, as if creating some confected concept of an "Education Precinct" is enough rationale to justify the great land-grab subdivisions from Bungendore Park and Bungendore Common.

The whole "glitzy" scenario is insult to the primary school, to the community, and to Bungendore's long heritage as a low-key traditional village.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely



Emma Brooks Maher



Queanbeyan East NSW 2620



Disclaimer- At no time in the last two years have I given any gift, or made any donation, to any political party, person, candidate or organisation.