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Director – Social and Infrastructure Assessments  
Planning and Assessment  
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment  
Locked Bag 5022  
Parramatta NSW 2124

To whom it may concern,

**NEW HIGH SCHOOL IN BUNGENDORE – APPLICATION NO. SSD-14394209**

I refer to the above state-significant development application.

My parents and my sister and her family live in Bungendore and are active members of their community. My family and I live close by and spend a lot of time in the town and engaging with other local people. The issue of the location of a high school to serve Bungendore and the surrounding area is a significant issue within the community. While the need for a high school is unquestionable – the proposed location is wholly unsuitable and would rob the community of many significant spaces and landmarks.

As someone with a strong connection to Bungendore and its community I am deeply opposed the planned site for the following reasons.

Firstly, the proposed site will mean the loss of Bungendore's primary recreational space, a Crown Land parcel that that was established in 1884. The attempt by the Department of Education to deprive the people of Bungendore of its green space flies in the face of all research that rightly concludes the value of such a resource. The NSW Government has announced major funding for improvements to parks and green spaces, recognizing the importance of these assets to our communities (NSW Public Spaces Legacy Program and The Parks for People Program).

Secondly, included in the Social Impact Assessment is the statement that the fenced area of the park will be "used exclusively by the Department of Education during school hours under a joint use arrangement. This will result in a loss of public recreation access during much of the day on weekdays" (Pg 24).

Thirdly, the loss of access to the park will adversely affect the well-being of the many Bungendore residents and visitors who take advantage of Bungendore Park. A park that is recognized by the local council as "the primary recreation facility in Bungendore" (Bungendore Structure Plan, Pg 10).

Fourthly, documentation for the high school states that the area of the site is just 2.9 hectares, my understanding is that a high school should have a site of at least 4 hectares. Bungendore's population is set to increase quite substantially with the "need to accommodate 1400 additional dwellings over the 30 year time period to account for the current growth rate" (Bungendore Structure Plan, Pg 4). I believe that the High School Action Group envisage the need for a school that will accommodate 1,400 students, based on council's growth estimation, that figure seems much more realistic.

What will happen when the enrolments rise above the proposed 400-450 students? Demountable buildings or further expense and disruption to erect further permanent accommodation?

One of the lovely and special things about Bungendore are the historic buildings that are a feature of the four streets that border Bungendore Park. My understanding is that the main school building will be a two storied concrete structure. It goes against all generally accepted planning rules to have a very modern building set within a historically significant area of the town. An area described by the local council as the historic nineteenth century village and the late twentieth and twenty first century residential areas (Bungendore Structure Plan, Pg 6).

Finally, the Landscape Site Plan (Pg 16) shows a fence very close to the northern edge of the Bungendore War Memorial and that the bus stops and "Kiss and Leave" zones will be on Gibraltar Street very close to the memorial. I have a deeply personally connection to the War Memorial, as my great, great uncle is on the Honour Roll of those killed in action during WWI, as his grave is unknown to my family the memorial has a special place in all our hearts. It is completely unjustifiable to encroach on a place of remembrance.

I strongly urge the New South Wales Government to scrap the proposed plans and find an alternative site for Bungendore's high school.

Yours sincerely,

