

16 October 2021

NSW Major Planning SUBMISSION

State Significant Development

RE: Proposed Bungendore High School

SSDA-14394209 --- FORMAL OBJECTION

Specific Objection Topic: Traffic Issues and Faulty Assessments

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 **traffic issues**.

1. The traffic counts cited in various documentation cannot be trusted. They are too small a sample and don't represent properly the existing patterns. Given the apparent lack of detail and accuracy they should be regarded for the planning process as FRAUDULENT and therefore a form of serious MISREPRESENTATION by QPRC Council.

2. The proposed BHS will generate dangerous levels of traffic in all the surrounding streets.

3. The proposed changes to roads take no account of the increased traffic for the changes in school traffic alone which involve:

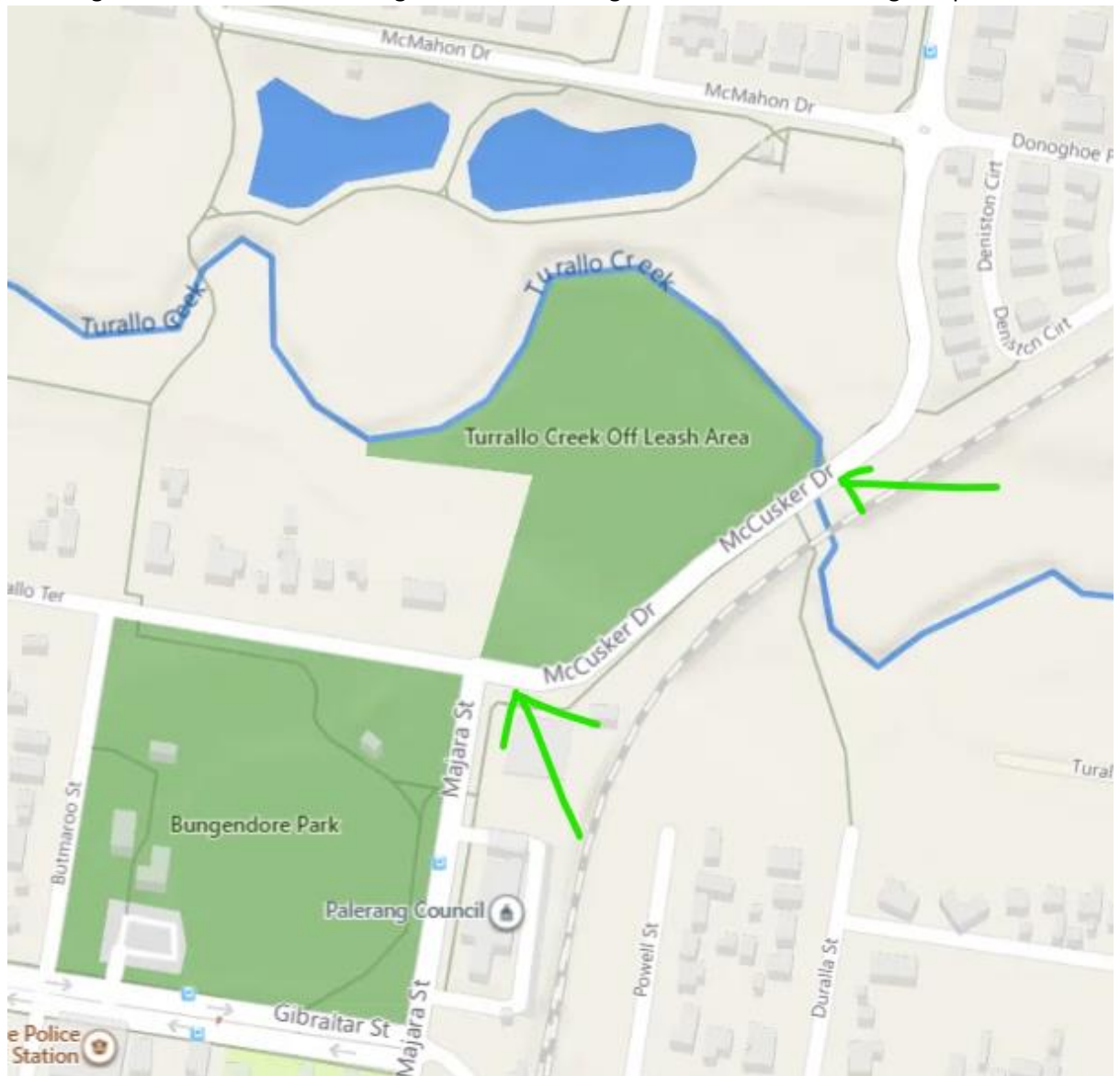
- Increased traffic and hazards for morning and afternoon drop-offs
- Increased bus activity morning and night
- Significant increases in risk and danger to both parents and children of all ages
- Increased risks when older BHS students acquire cars and are driving and trying to park around the proposed area which causes further inconvenience to residents, to visitors to the school (existing), and traffic for the proposed BHS

4. It is inconceivable that the Council's Traffic and Safety Committee has properly scrutinized the proposed BHS plans and traffic design. There are numerous points of issue:

- Lack of proper pedestrian access and sidewalks
- Lack of proper crosswalks (Bungendore already has many such instances, we don't need more risks for children or parents)
- Traffic from all the new development to the north of Elmslea will put **significant** increased pressure on all existing roads – with over 2000 new dwellings, many of which will be families with children attending the current school and the proposed BHS there will be increased

traffic associated risks throughout the area but especially around the existing school and proposed school precinct.

- Changes to road designs proposed and the existing low level crossing road (extension of McCusker Drive) will severely compound the traffic flows and problems. Flooding of the low level crossing further adds to the problems of the area and there is no proposal to reduce the dangers and risks of the flooding which occurs along the road and the existing footpaths.



5. Parking issues only add to the problematic nature of the proposed BHS. There is already insufficient parking for existing and long enduring patterns of use in the area, for the Off-Leash dog park, for existing recreational walkways, and other amenities.

There are just key issues among the many surrounding the proposed BHS location and design. All of them would be avoided if the new BHS is properly located in a greenfields area **as was originally proposed**, either to the north of existing Elmslea along Tarago Road or to the south near Trucking Yard Lane. Both recommended sites allow for growth, safe traffic, expansion, and do not trample on the existing Heritage town features.

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 greenfields 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

[REDACTED]

Bungendore NSW 2621

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