

Angela McGill



Bungendore NSW 2621

5 October 2021

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

Dear Sir or Madam,

Re: New High School in Bungendore – Application no SSD-14394209

With reference to the above stated state significant development application, I object to the proposal. However, I must make it clear that I do not object to a High School in Bungendore, but not one in the proposed location. I have concerns regarding increased traffic flow, site suitability (regarding future capacity requirements) heritage and last but not least the loss of a community setting used daily, weekly and monthly for both physical and social activities.

Bungendore Park is a heritage site, first gazetted in the late 19th century. Along with the two churches, the Police Station and the Post Office it is one of the few remaining links to that era for Bungendore and should be preserved if only for this reason. It has also been the home to the Bungendore Tigers (our Rugby League team) since 1908. It also is the home to the town swimming pool (which was funded by the local community in the early 1990s), the town's tennis courts, cricket nets, adult exercise equipment, a children's playground and public loos. These facilities are used by local families every day. It is well placed to be the highly utilised community assets that they are,

The site has considerable heritage value, including stone pines from Lone Pine at Gallipoli, the grave of an indigenous man, the war memorial, poets corner and heritage horse railing all of which are worthy of preserving. These are but a few of the historical buildings in Bungendore, including the train station and the old convent. If we do not value our past, future generations will be asking why we destroyed their history. All of these are protected from over development and change by the Crown Lands Act among other instruments of law including, but not limited to, heritage law, environment laws and the ANZAC Memorial Act.

With a growing population and considerable housing occurring, it is hard to understand why a site of 2.9 hectares for a greenfield high school is preferred over the published preferred area of 4 hectares. Additionally, there is no room for the school to grow with the town (which is supposed to double in population with the decade). The three other high schools in the local government area, Queanbeyan, Karabar and Braidwood all have abundant green spaces and school ovals. We have an abundance of green space in our local area which could be utilised.

My last objection is with regard to situating a high school immediately adjacent to a primary school. Many children need a completely new start following their primary education and for it to be across the road is not a good option. Also, with the limitation on size, the quality of educators is not likely to be high as the best teachers would not be attracted to a small school. Bungendore Primary already performs below average in Naplan and it would be a disgrace to allow the students to suffer further and be hindered in their education as a result.

Please, Department of Education and NSW Government, to back to the drawing board and find a site that is more appropriate for our area that will offer the quality of education our children deserve.

I have not and no associate of mine, has made any political donation to any person the last two years preceding this submission,

Yours faithfully

Angela McGill