

Sophie Cheadle

  
Mt Fairy

NSW 2583

13 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 SSD-14394209

I am writing with regard to the above state significant development application to which I object. I do not object to a High School in Bungendore but I strongly oppose the school in its proposed location.

First and foremost we have abundant green space, adjacent to current new developments in the area, as opposed to placing a new school with limited space for its current proposed size let alone for future expansion, as the area is marked for an exponential increase in the next ten years.

There is now the potential of lead contamination in the soil – current testing has already marked off some areas close to the proposed site and it was explained at a meeting last week that the testing is only in its early stages.

My family and I have only lived in the area for a short period of time but know that the main pathway from Elmslea Drive (used currently by the junior school students) together with the main road (which is proposed to become a one way street directly to the school) have been flooded out three times this year so far!

Bungendore Park is a heritage site that is well used by the local community on a daily basis. It is home to the town swimming pool (which was funded by the local community in the early 1990's), the town's tennis courts, cricket nets, adult exercise equipment, a children's playground and public toilets. These are used by local families every day and would be off-limits other than outside school hours once a perimeter fence is erected.

It was my understanding that this site is protected under the Crown Lands Act.

My daughter attends Bungendore Primary and it is my view that placing a high school immediately adjacent to a primary school is not the best practice. Many children need a completely new start when going off to high school. Plus, with the initial size of the High School you are unlikely to attract top teachers given the small size of the school. Bungendore Primary already performs below average on the Naplan testing and it seems unfair that local children should be subjected to a lesser than average education for their secondary schooling.

Please can you re-look at the previous proposed site, which had been as I understand it, given approval together with initial testing. I do not believe we have ever been informed as to why there was a sudden change of plan? If there indeed is a very valid reason for that site being rejected, please can you look at the bountiful green space around Bungendore which would ideally give a forward thinking approach to the future needs of this community (and keep everyone happy).

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

Yours faithfully