

Carmel Maher

Giralang ACT 2017

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

Dear Sir or Madam

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

I refer to the above state-significant development application.

I wish to lodge a **formal objection** to the new Bungendore High School as proposed in SSDA-14394209, for the following reasons.

During the 1970's and early 1980's I was married to a 'Bungendore' gentleman. He was from a large family, I believe his mother still lives there. I got to know many families, friends and the area very well. We often attended community events and family picnics at "Mick Sherd Oval". Also for 8 years I worked part-time at the Bungendore Woodworks Gallery.

Although my home is in Canberra, my sister now lives in Duralla Street Bungendore, having earlier lived in both Malbon and Majara Streets. She also lived on a property on the out-skirt of town and held a legal interest in and worked at the Bungendore Woodworks Gallery.

So over the years, I have become quite familiar with the area and have a family understanding of the issues involved re this High School proposal.

My main objection is in regard to the location, and how it is to be put together from so many different sites, including a takeover of so much of what the SSDA refers to as just "Mick Sherd Oval".

From another sister, who also lived in Duralla St for some years, I know that the oval is only PART of a dedicated Crown Land Reserve – set up as such in 1884.

Bungendore Park is not just "open land" available for development. Even as a visitor, I know that it's an important green space for the whole community. For over 100 years it's been the village "Town Square". It has huge heritage value, just being there -- and it should stay that way.

Given this, its size and shape is significant, and I object to any attempt to carve it up into different pieces – especially when I also know that there is another larger, far more appropriate High School site available, and with due diligence already done, on Tarago Rd.

In fact, the whole land-plan in the SSDA is a nonsense. Linking up the various sites is a complicated mess, especially for Abheyfield and the Scouts carpark. And we now know that being so close to the railway tracks raises a big risk re lead contamination.

Worse, whoever thought that it was a good idea to close off that section of Majara Street has clearly never lived in the area. It's not only a highly useful part of the traditional (ie heritage) grid road pattern, but I've personally seen how busy it can be at weekends, as a key roadway to and from the Kings Highway – it's not just locals, but holiday traffic too.

Having that Majara through-link will also be even more important when the future development of 2000 homes more at Elmslea is underway. Saying that it all should be detoured via the shopping centre and then Tarago Rd is a recipe for traffic congestion now, and major problems in future years. To me it's a key objection to the whole school project at this location.

Finally, I also know that my sister is a keen user of the off-leash dog area. She not only values it for exercise with her dog, but also as much-loved part of the village "Common". These things are important, and I object to the way this SSDA just seems to take what the Dept of Education it wants, with no consideration for the people of Bungendore.

On another level there are two further reasons why this take-over for the ag-plot is so objectionable.

First, it means the new High School will be on two separate sites – which is not only poor planning, but also against Dept guidelines for school siting. And I gather that this "extra" land is really a cheat because the main Majara+Road+Park site simply isn't large enough to meet the Dept's minimum site-size standards for a High School.

Second, the separation between those sites is a public road, which is not only raises safety considerations for the students, but the SSDA shows roadworks to NARROW that area of Turallo Terrace – which is already quite busy now, and going to be even more vital as the logical north link to so much future development.

I'm sure there will be more detailed objections from residents, but even as a visitor to my sister's house I can see problems galore if this SSDA is allowed to proceed as-is. It's confused, contradictory, on a patchwork site that just plain doesn't make sense.

I urge the Dept of Education to get real, and abandon this convoluted location. Take these building plans and put them where they belong – on the Tarago Road site that's already been considered, investigated, almost approved – and best of all, not only still available but shovel-ready right now.

I have not made any political donation to any person in the 2 years preceding this submission.

Thank you.

Carmel Maher

