

[REDACTED]
Bungendore,

2621 NSW

30th September, 2021

Director - Social and Infrastructure Assessments

Planning and Assessment

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

Locked Bag 5022

Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear Sir, Madam,

Re: New High School in Bungendore

Application No. SSD-14394209

I refer to the above state-significant development application.

I **object to the proposal** for the following reasons:

1) **The site is too small.** The school is projected to accommodate 450 students at capacity. Bungendore and the surrounding areas are projected to considerably grow in population in the short term future. There is significant demand for real estate. The development of the North Elmslea housing estate is an example of the rapid growth of Bungendore. **The community needs a secondary school as a very high priority but it needs a school that is fit for purpose and big enough to expand.** The proposed site is limited on four sides by the railway line, the Mick Sherd oval, the creek and the railway crossing.

2) **The school plan encroaches onto the Mick Sherd oval - a heritage site and a natural resource highly valued by the community.** Bungendore presently has little open space within the boundaries of the township and the Mick Sherd oval is a very precious open space used by the locals for passive and active recreation. Particularly during the Covid19 pandemic and lockdowns, as community members have been encouraged to walk, the Mick Sherd oval has been used extensively. A High School on its boundary would severely curtail the space available for passive and active recreation. As well, there is a strong risk that the oval will be subsumed into the school environment and the

locals will feel shut out of a community resource that is presently much loved and valued and utilised heavily.

3) Turallo Drive, Gibraltar Street and Malbon Street are not designed to carry the **traffic flow** that will ensue as a result of the High School at this site. Many of the students will utilise buses and will be driven long distances by car. The **traffic chaos that will potentially result is dangerous** for all the school members, not to mention the other local community constituents.

4) A cap of 450 students - a cap determined by the limited size of the site - will result in a **significantly curtailed curriculum offering** at senior levels. Such a small school will not be big enough to provide the wide choice of subjects that our secondary students are entitled to. As a result, many of the senior students will travel to the ACT, as they presently do, to access their senior years education. This is not right or fair. Our students have a right to an outstanding education here in Bungendore where they live. They have a right to access all the curriculum offerings that include both the ATAR and vocational pathways. There should be a state of the art school being built here that provides for STEM, Arts, Humanities, Commerce, Languages, Health and Physical Education as well as Horticulture and other vocational offerings. There is no point building a small secondary school on this site when ultimately another school will need to be built somewhere else in future. **The limitations on the site will dictate a limit on the breadth of the curriculum available.**

I have not, and no associate of mine, has made any political donation to any person in the 2 years preceding this submission.

Yours Sincerely,

Anne Maher

