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I strongly object to the
NSW Government Planning Industry and Environment
Exhibition of State Significant Development Application SSD-14394209
New High School in Bungendore

for the following reasons

Bungendore Park and the adjoining Common across Turallo Terrace, is Crown Land that is dedicated for public use and recreation. The site, bounded by a railway line and 3 suburban roads, is limited even for a high school of 450 students. It does not have room for expansion; it does not consider projected population growth with development of new housing estates outside the heritage village and within the catchment area. With the growth of student numbers, demountable school buildings as seen in every other jurisdiction will encroach on Mick Sherd oval and eventually swallow up Bungendore Park, the Common and its heritage precinct. The Park and the Common will cease to be a site for community use and recreation. The village does not have any more centrally placed open spaces to lose.

The Social Impact Assessment of the proposed site stated,
"It will have a low positive impact on the community."

This is damning in itself!

The claim that there are no other suitable sites is a lie. Contracts were prepared for early works and access deeds by DPIE for Ashby, just outside the village confines, but were suddenly halted and the Bungendore Park site was announced. Land immediately to the east in a new development was offered, but dismissed, as were other sites for spurious reasons; "no infrastructure" when there is a new housing development on the other side of the road, or "flood prone area" when the area has never flooded in living memory!

The sudden announcement to close Majara Street, a vital thoroughfare from Elmslea Estate to the Railway Station and Kings Highway, between Turallo Terrace and Gibraltar Street, **to provide extra land for the high school was made without any community consultation or feasible traffic studies.** This closure will undeniably lead to traffic congestion, parking problems and safety issues at the drop off point between the kindergarten/preschool and high school, mixed with through traffic from Elmslea. Traffic will be diverted down Butmaroo Street, an urban street and pedestrian thoroughfare from Elmslea across Turallo Creek footbridge to the Park, IGA and commercial centre. The only realistic traffic survey was done by a very patient local with an academic/science background.

The almost total disregard by the Department of Education and School Infrastructure NSW for honest and open engagement with the community in the planning phases, and any understanding of the location and history of Bungendore village and the changing demographics with new, planned and future housing developments adjacent to the village, including surrounding farmlands and settlements, did not inspire confidence in the attention to detail in the early planning stages.

There is no evidence that the State Government consulted "stakeholders" of the Mick Sherd oval, the Community Centre, Swimming Club, and St Mary's church, owner of the kindergarten/preschool property. The outcome of the two Information Sessions at the primary school Hub, and the on line questionnaires claimed that there was overwhelming support for the high school. **However, no objections to the proposed site were ever taken into account!** To support the high school but object to the site was simply counted as a pro high school vote. The whole process was an insult. Our questions were dismissed or disregarded, and the on line questionnaires were hardly worth the trouble to complete. They were presented as if the high school on Bungendore Park was a given and asked what sort of classroom configurations would be preferred and how we would like certain courses to be conducted. I don't write curricula and I haven't sat in a classroom or flexible learning area for many years! The chance to question and contribute was denied as were any objections to the site. Similarly our letters went unanswered or at best received a cursory response.

The demolition of community facilities, namely the swimming pool complex and the Community Centre, in this central location, and the **restrictions imposed on community use of Mick Sherd oval during school hours, 7.30am-6pm, with proposed 2.1m fencing around the school buildings, will have a huge impact on the nature, character and use of Bungendore park.** These facilities were the result of community fundraising initiatives and efforts. Who will be responsible for maintaining Mick Sherd oval, a green grassed playing field that, unlike the Warren Little playing field across Turallo Creek, doesn't flood in winter?

Both "the Common" and Bungendore Park, are on Crown land. It is evident that this has not been considered or addressed in the acquisition of land for the high school complex. The high school plans to subsume a large portion of the Common for agricultural plots and sheds, and possibly parking. Majara Street road infrastructure between Turallo Terrace and Gibraltar Street will be demolished along with a street-scape of trees. The swimming pool and change rooms, storage shed, built of bricks from the mid 1800s, and the Community Centre will also be demolished. The Rotunda and Bush Balladeers stone memorial at the other end will be removed to another site. With this space, and land taken from the Park and Mick Sherd oval, three 12m high prefab buildings, a hall, a gym, library, canteen and administrative facilities will be constructed, buildings totally out of character with a heritage precinct of single storey stone, brick and timber buildings.

The heritage precinct around the park contains the core of Bungendore's village history; Railway Station and railway cottages, School of Arts, original Primary School, PO,

Court House, Cobb and Co. Stables, St Phillips Church, Old Catholic Convent, and heritage wooden cottages, all beautifully maintained; low set and built of stone, bricks and timber; a relic of Australia's colonial history. **The vistas to Mt Gibraltar will disappear.** The scaled down replica of the Menin Gate War Memorial, build over 100 years ago, visited by tourists regularly and huge crowds on ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day will be overwhelmed, and suffer because of limited access and parking. The Social Impact Assessment of the high school on Bungendore Park almost got it right; "a low positive impact on the community". Hardly something to celebrate, though!

The loss of 73 mature trees, many planted by individuals and Landcare groups, ("don't ask for Council permission, just do it") **that transformed a "windy, flat, dry and dusty treeless wilderness"** in the late 1970s into a pleasant area for community use and recreation by both tourists and locals alike will be replaced by fenced school buildings, out of character with a heritage precinct.

And now we find that the railway corridor and adjoining areas at Bungendore Station are lead contaminated. Surely this is not unexpected as lead and zinc ores brought by train from Captains Flat mines were unloaded at Bungendore Station and reloaded for the line to Port Kembla. Lead contamination had earlier been discovered at Tarago Railway Station.

Surrounded by greenways and with government policies promoting greener and cleaner environments to facilitate outdoor activities and improve the health of a community, why would we sacrifice a long established well treed Park, today, to build a hastily planned high school on a small, costly and limited site away from the areas of current and future population growth? Why would we sacrifice trees and pleasant outdoor spaces now that will help lessen the impact of climate change in the future?

It makes no sense....unless it is for mere political expediency.

I have no affiliation with any Political Party, Local, State or Federal, nor have I ever made a donation to a Political Party.