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Bungendore War Memorial Committee
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16 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

NEW HIGH SCHOOL IN BUNGENDORE APPLICATION NO. SSD-14394209

I refer to the above state-significant development application.

The Bungendore War Memorial Committee (BWMC) as custodians of the War Memorial (located on the south side of the Mick Sherd Oval/Bungendore Park) wish to lodge the following objections to components of the High School State Significant Development application:

1. The timber post and top rail fence
2. The Kiss & Drop and Bus Drop Off

It should be noted that the BWMC has no objection to a High School in Bungendore, but we do strongly object to the proposed fence as indicated in App 4, App 5a, App 5b and App 9.

1. The timber post and top rail fence

The location of the fence, as indicated in the drawings, is adjacent to the northern edge of the memorial gardens. During ANZAC Day commemorative services the general public use this area to participate and to witness the service. A fence in this location would not allow the public to easily congregate in this area. It is noted that the fence is an 'intermittent timber post and top rail fence' however with a large crowd assembling such a structure has the possibility of limiting movement of the public in this space and the visual line of the fence would likely be lost therefore presenting the potential for a serious trip hazard. The pictures below show the crowd assembled on the northern side of the memorial in the area where the fence would be located according to the State Significant Development for the school.



Additionally, Remembrance Day services are conducted on the northern side of the memorial with those attending being seated and standing on the grassed area adjacent to the memorial (see pictures below). A fence in this location would impede the set-up of chairs and the flow of participants to the service and again present a significant trip hazard noting that a large number of those attending these services are advanced in years



In App 4 - Architectural Design Report - N Response to GANSW Discussion and Comments – 7. Fencing, page 81 which states 'SINSW have conducted significant stakeholder consultation to develop a site security strategy that is both safe and welcoming to the school and wider community'. At no time has the BWMC been consulted in respect to fencing, in fact meetings held with both the Department of Education, School Infrastructure Planning and the Hon John Barilaro's electorate office indicated that there would be no fence impeding the area of the memorial. The BWMC specifically asked for reassurance on this matter and outlined that the commemorative services utilise this area.

Additionally, further on in the 7. Fencing, page 81 it states that the 'new intermittent timber post and top rail fence' will have 'large openings between, and new removable timber bollards adjacent to the soldiers memorial'. The BWMC has reservation on who is expected to remove the 'removable timber bollards' and the quantity. The committee is also concerned about potential safety trip hazards from the removal and storage of these bollards and whether the resultant holes will have safety covers while the bollards have been removed.

App 5a – Landscape Report – D Landscape Design – 12. Fencing Plan page 25 and App 5b – Landscape Drawings – D Landscape Design – 12. Fencing (BHS_LA_SSDDA_2007) indicates these removable bollards but does not give any specifics to height, number etc.

App 9 – Social Impact Assessment 6.3. ACCESS TO OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FACILITIES, Page 25 indicates that the low, top rail style fence is a management measure to address the community use of the Mick Sherd Oval/Bungendore Park during school hours. Clearly, the social impact of the fence has not been addressed in respect to ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day commemorations, considering the large numbers of people in attendance. Additionally, the assessment has not taken into account the safety aspects inherent by a low fence in an area that has been and will continue to be used by the public during commemorative services at the War Memorial. Again, the BWMC were not consulted in respect to the social aspects noting ANZAC Day is of considerable significance and possibly more so in Bungendore due to the large Defence and ex-Defence community.

With the proposed changes to the area on Gibraltar Street immediately in front of the memorial, the proceedings on ANZAC Day may have to be rearranged to accommodate all the participants, mainly those support groups such as the Pipes and Drums Band, RFS, SES and ADF Cadets. This may result in some of these groups needing to march onto and form up on the northern side of the memorial. The proposed fence would preclude this as the only removable part is a small section in front of the

memorial. The fence has a clear impact on any future modifications that the BWMC may need to make to the ANZAC Day commemorations.

The Catafalque Party on Remembrance Day will be marching on to the memorial and back from the northern side and will need sufficient space meaning that the removeable section will need to be sufficient to allow manoeuvring by the formed bodies.

Further at page 24 of the Social Impact Assessment states that the Mick Sherd Oval/Bungendore Park will be 'used exclusively by the Department of Education during school hours under a joint use arrangement. This will result in a loss of public recreation access during much of the day on weekdays'. This essentially means the Remembrance Day ceremony cannot utilise any part of the Mick Sherd Oval/Bungendore Park area beyond the proposed restrictive fence between 10 am to 12 pm (to enable set up, ceremony and strip down) as this day is not a public holiday and not always a weekend.

2. Kiss & Drop and Bus Drop areas

Finally, the BWMC also has concerns on the location of the proposed new kiss and drop area which is indicated in App 4 - Architectural Design Report - D Masterplan Proposal – 2 item 16, page 26, as it is extended to the front of the memorial which is currently a no stop zone. If this space is to become a drop-off there is the potential for litter to be dropped and become entangled in the memorial gardens.

Further if the area directly in front of the memorial is set as parking zone outside of the kiss and drop times then this would impact our access for set-up and pull-down on Remembrance Day and ANZAC Day. Additionally, on ANZAC Day, if someone decided to park there for the day this would have a catastrophic impact on the commemoration. It is imperative that the area directly in front of the memorial and gardens remains a 'no stopping' zone out of kiss and drop hours.

Additionally, App 5a – Landscape Report – D Landscape Design – 3. Circulation + Access, page 13 indicates that the main bus bay will be directly across Gibraltar St from the memorial. Again, this has the potential for litter to be dropped and ending up in the memorial gardens. The BWMC also would like to think that students will respect the memorial and gardens and avoid using the smaller memorials in the garden as seats and also avoid trampling through the garden itself as they move around the area noting they have access to the Mick Sherd Oval as part of the school area during school days.

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

Yours faithfully,

Rob Allard
Secretary
BWMC