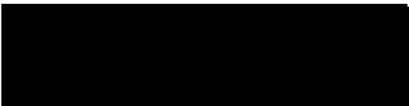




Please find attached my Objection to DA17/1092.



13/12/17

Penrith City Council
PO Box 60
PENRITH 2751

OBJECTION TO DA17/1092

LOCATION – The golf course is a most inappropriate location for a cemetery being right in the centre of Wallacia. The local shops, Wallacia Hotel and houses along Mulgoa Road all back onto the golf course. Immediately across the road is a retirement complex with 70 units plus residential houses opposite the course along Park Road, as well as residential housing to the back of the course. Wallacia is a small rural village and to place a cemetery right in the centre of the village will change the ambience forever. It will cease to be a small rural village. To my mind, a cemetery should be separated and built away from residences.

TRAFFIC – The golf course is bounded by Mulgoa Road and Park Road, both of which are single lane roads in either direction. Should a cemetery go in, the amount of regular traffic attending funerals and funeral processions on these roads, and to a lesser extent, Silverdale Road, will cause long delays on all these roads. There is little or no opportunity to overtake on any of these roads.

FLOOD PRONE – The golf course regularly floods after heavy rain. I see a “lake” form between the 1st & 10th fairways every time heavy rain occurs and it takes a couple of days to drain away. I am also aware there are other areas of the golf course where the same thing happens after heavy rain.

HISTORY – The golf course has a long history being opened in 1932. It also has the distinction of being the first course in Australia to open membership for Women Associates. The land the golf course is situated on was actually bequeathed to the community by the late John Fowler with the proviso that the land is always used for recreation purposes.

ENVIRONMENTAL/POLLUTION – I am concerned about the air quality in the Wallacia following the installation of a crematorium in addition to the opening of the nearby Badgerys Creek airport and having planes flying overhead as well as an increased volume of traffic in the area that a cemetery and an airport will bring. Also there is concern over leaching of the bodies into the table drain that will end up in Jerry’s Creek and from there, the Nepean River.

DEVALUATION IN HOME PRICES – I believe the advice from a real estate agent that the homes immediately surrounding the cemetery, including the 70 units in the retirement complex, will most definitely be devalued in price. I also believe that a cemetery in the centre of Wallacia would affect the desirability of living here. Right from the outset when news that Catholic Cemeteries had bought the golf course, jokes were circulating about “the dead heart of Wallacia”. It was recognised by everyone immediately that a cemetery would be right in the centre of the village.

NO COMMUNITY CONSULTATION – Why was there no community consultation prior to the golf course being bought by Catholic Cemeteries? In Mulgoa when Rookwood were planning on buying Fernhill and putting in a cemetery there, they held 40 community meetings. In the end, due to community opposition, they pulled out from buying the property. No such process has happened with Catholic Cemeteries and Wallacia residents.

LOSS OF RECREATIONAL/SOCIAL FACILITY – The idea of closing a golf course for a cemetery is farcical and outrageous. Apart from a small bowling club, there are no other recreational facilities in this area to service the villages of Wallacia, Mulgoa, Luddenham, Silverdale and Warragamba other than the golf course. The golf club also provides a social outlet for local people from the same villages. It is a small friendly club that is welcoming to all. The elderly people in the retirement village immediately opposite the club only have to walk across the road for a meal, a drink, to play bingo, raffles or pokies. Many of them no longer drive and the loss of the club would have a huge impact on their lives as well as all local residents as it provides an opportunity to get to know and socialise with local people.

I am strongly opposed to the establishment of a cemetery in Wallacia.

