

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:
Attachments:




Dear Sir/Madam,
Please find attached the submission
17/1092.
With Thanks





Dear Sir/ Madam,

**Re : DA17/1092: Proposed staged construction of Wallacia Memorial Park
Including cemetery for 88,000 burial plots, chapel and related crematorium
and function rooms,
Administration building etc**

 would like to lodge objections to the above stated proposal that will result in unavoidable and overwhelming negative impacts to the natural environment of the Mulgoa Valley as well as detrimentally affecting the rural and heritage landscapes of our local area.

According to the former SREPP 13 (now translated in to LEP 2010), Wallacia Village forms part of the Mulgoa Valley. It is the objective of the Mulgoa Landcare Group to maintain and protect the natural heritage of Mulgoa Valley. This proposed development will undermine the heritage, rural and environmental values of the Mulgoa Valley.

Precedence

- Approval of such an inappropriate development in the Mulgoa Valley sets precedence for the rest of our valley – once again exposing heritage properties such as Fernhill to another assault by speculators such as the Catholic Cemeteries Trust.

Amendments to LEP 2010 already under review

- There are current LEP amendments under consideration with the NSW Planning Department. This Development Application cannot proceed whilst the amendments to LEP 2010 are currently being considered. I must also iterate our concerns that this process has taken an inordinate amount of time. The fact that cemeteries and crematoria were prohibited by SREPP13 and it was a housekeeping 'oversight' (as admitted by Penrith Council) that this inappropriate use somehow appeared in the translation of SREPP13 into LEP2010.



- The community stresses that the review has taken beyond an acceptable time frame – and challenges that it is the NSW Planning department slowing the process to allow this DA to be approved. The community demands transparency about the Gateway review and the inordinate amount of time taken to review these amendments.
- It is clear that the Catholic Cemeteries Trust are urgently seeking a decision on the proposed cemetery at Wallacia BEFORE the Penrith Council amendment to the LEP is considered.

Wallacia Golf Course already Crown Land

– with NO community consultation or feasibility investigations from the NSW Department of Lands.

- The Catholic Cemeteries Trust is simply another property speculator competing within the Western Sydney property market place. AS stated by Minister Toole, the purchase of the site does not necessarily provide automatic approval for the development of a cemetery and a crematorium – this is an important fact. The NSW Minister for Lands has already been exposed for his ‘cart before the horse’ attitude with the recent efforts to secure a similar DA at Fernhill. The fact that Wallacia Golf Club is now “Crown land” is of concern – and so this ‘DA process’ is questionable. It would appear that, without community consultation and without the relevant feasibility, the Minister for Lands has approved the purchase of this site by the Catholic Cemeteries Trust. This Minister is on the public record for his lack of consultation and lack of transparency in previous portfolios – and once again this appears to be the case with the proposed cemetery at Wallacia. Back room deals and pushing through such developments in inappropriate locations will not be tolerated by the voting public.

Tree Removal and habitat impacts

- The Environmental assessment states that a massive **384 trees will be removed** for this development to occur. The report also acknowledges that there are at least 6 species of bats residing or foraging in this area.
- The extent to which the development will impact a critically endangered ecological community (CEEC) and impact a threatened species (foraging and habitat of the grey headed flying fox) will require a referral to the Commonwealth Government to be assessed under the EPBC act. I request that Council ensure that this referral is undertaken. Cumulative impacts of this development coupled with the massive assault on local vegetation and habitat (Western Sydney airport and ancillary infrastructure and commercial / residential release areas) that have already received approval will result in localised extinctions of fauna and the critically endangered plant communities of Western Sydney. This development is incompatible with the local environmental values sustained by the Mulgoa Valley.

Potential for flooding

- It is of concern that this development will occur within flood prone areas of the Jerry's Creek sub-catchment. This is not acceptable as a burial site for that reason.

Hydrology

- Preliminary investigations into the site's hydrology appears only to consider suitability of the site for building development and provides no information regarding site hydrology and how it will be impacted by burials. Insufficient advice from the proponent regarding this issue will need to be addressed. Further community consultation will be required once the necessary investigations have been undertaken.
- The proponent has provided insufficient information pertaining to the likelihood of contamination of groundwater systems (including ephemeral and transient flows) by bacteria and viruses or excessive loads of nutrients; attenuation of nutrient decomposition products etc. This DA cannot be assessed when there is insufficient information relating to the impacts in a flood zone and an E3 riparian corridor

Suitability

- The Mulgoa Valley is an unsuitable location for the proposed cemetery and crematorium. The resolution of the Gateway process (which will serve to rectify the situation created by a 'housekeeping error') will re-institute the fact that cemeteries are NOT a permissible land use in the Mulgoa Valley. The resolution of this oversight must occur without further delay.
- The NSW Lands Minister has been hoodwinked by the Catholic Cemeteries Trust into approving this location for purchase with the intent of developing a cemetery.
- There are lands available which are far better suited, in terms of accessibility, in and around the new Western Sydney Airport site. The residents of a cemetery will not be affected by 24 hour aircraft noise and hence a cemetery under the flight paths is an excellent result. These areas will be serviced by upgraded road and rail infrastructure which will better serve the burial needs and accessibility of the communities of Greater Sydney.

Finally, the NSW Government needs to stop dumping on Western Sydney. Our communities have become battle hardened as a result of speculators (like the Catholic Cemeteries Trust, Rookwood Cemeteries Trust, Angas Securities, Masters Platinum investors etc) who continue to exploit our local areas to the detriment of our environment and amenity. We ask Penrith Council to represent constituents, demand a response from the Gateway process and oppose this cemetery.

Sincerely

