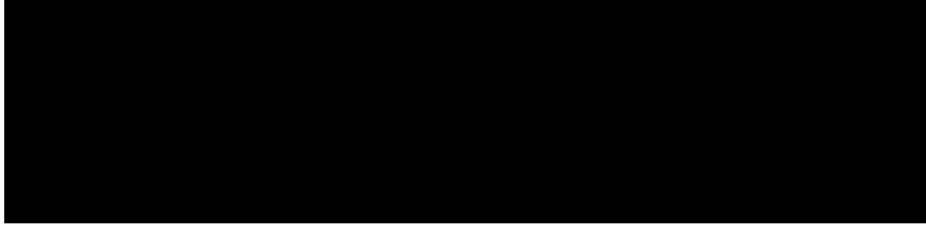


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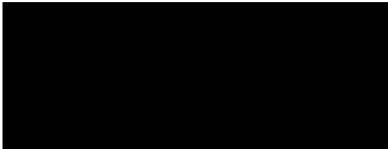


Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached a letter to Council detailing my concerns and grounds for objection to the proposed cemetery and crematorium.

May I please have acknowledgement of your receipt by return?

Yours sincerely,



Penrith City Council
PO Box 60,
Penrith NSW 2751

Dear Sir / Madam,

Ref. Objection to Development Application No. DA17/1092 (Wallacia Golf Course Site)

Thank you for your letters dated 17 November, 2017 and 18 January, 2018 regarding the application submitted to Council for a cemetery/crematorium (sugar coated by spin doctors as a memorial garden), etc. on this site.

Wallacia is a wonderful community with a rural village feel and this is precisely why I and many others are attracted to live here. The golf course is arguably the community's major landmark and provides an attractive sporting/recreational open space practically in the centre of the village.

Construction of a cemetery and crematorium adjacent to the Wallacia village would be inappropriate and a grossly unfair imposition on those who have invested heavily in their homes and currently enjoy living in the area. I believe the proximity of the cemetery to the village centre, its location on one of the two main arterial roads and the scale of the development will overshadow the entire community. I have considered this at length and attended information sessions by CMCT and their consultant Urbis and I do not consider this an exaggeration to embellish my point. Should the development proceed, then I share the real concern of many residents of the community that Wallacia will become infamous as the regions graveyard or "dead centre" – a truly appalling thing for residents of the village to have forced upon us.

I wish to express my strong objection to this development for the following reasons: -

1. A cemetery/crematorium as a major landmark will have a severe negative impact on the village as a whole (turn left at the cemetery rather than golf course does not have the same ring to it).
2. Cemetery's/crematoriums are necessary but nobody in their right mind would choose to live in proximity to or worse still in view of one. The sight of a graveyard leaves one feeling empty. The sight of smoke or steam during winter and perhaps the smell of toxic fumes (mercury, etc.) of a crematorium furnace in operation would surely be a sickening thing to all. It should be located well away from established residential properties.
3. The development will substantially devalue property in the village.

The CEO of the Catholic Metropolitan Cemetery Trust has indicated that they will not offer compensation. I do not accept that I and others should

personally suffer a very substantial financial loss while CMCT gain massively as a result of the development.

Empirical evidence to support this claim in Australia is not readily available, however research from the UK proved property prices in close proximity to cemeteries in 13 towns were on average 23% lower than the surrounding postcode average [reference: - <http://www.propertyreporter.co.uk/finance/can-living-next-door-to-a-cemetery-affect-the-value-of-your-property.html>].

4. A portion of the site drains south through a chain of ponds (refer WC16 on Figure 4 of the Watercourse Assessment by Travers) [REDACTED] before entering Jerrys Creek and the Nepean River. The large pond [REDACTED] is dependent on rainwater runoff from the site for filling and flushing which occurs perhaps 2 to 3 times per year during heavy downfalls. These ponds are mostly stagnant and susceptible to weed and algae problems with an excess of nutrient in the water. I believe the bio-retention swales, riparian and wetland proposed for DL1 on Fig.6, page 19 of the Watercourse Assessment will be grossly inadequate for its intended purpose and that with runoff from heavy downpours it will be scoured out and washed into and the chain of ponds downstream. A large area of land around DL16 has severe down hydraulic gradients and I have a major concern that the small attenuation wetland pond will not prevent leachates from a good portion of 176,000 (88,000 plots with 2 per plot) decomposing bodies, the chemicals used to hasten the process, formaldehyde, heavy metals, etc., or perhaps pathogenic bacteria from entering the WC16 waterway [REDACTED] Sewer from the development, if not connected to the village sewer treatment system, will massively add to the problem of nutrient overload with resultant weed and algae blooms in downstream waterways including on my property, Jerry's Creek and the Nepean River.
5. Local traffic will be increased with delays on Park Road from funeral processions.
6. The DA spin doctors have highlighted that a 9 or 13 hole golf course will remain for 70 years. I am a golfer and from my experience I know serious golfers will not want to play on a short course (less than 18 holes) and that it will therefore likely become unviable in the shorter term. As for visitors being welcome to enjoy the parkland – seriously who would want to picnic in a graveyard?

In summary, I understand that this development is a highly attractive commercial proposition for CMCT but I see it as having a very negative impact upon me and others as neighbouring residents.

Please Council, hear my objection and do what you can to prevent this development proceeding. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]