

Good afternoon + thank you for this opportunity

Submission to the IPC 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019

I have lived in Mulgoa and Wallacia for 30 years and moved here to enjoy life in a semi rural village environment with a strong community. When I first heard about this development my first reaction was that I don't play golf and a cemetery next to a village is not so bad, but as I heard more information from our local Progress Association I soon realised the scale of this development was totally out of proportion to the village and that there were very serious consequences. I have since joined the Progress Association committee and the more information that I heard the situation has got worse and worse. Like many other people this has taken up so much time and energy and caused anger, stress and anxiety about the future of our community.

If the golf course kept as well.

News

it has

It did not seem possible that the Department of Environment and Planning could recommend the development for approval with so many common sense objections from Penrith Council and the local community as well as all the legal planning issues. You will have heard all the objections by now in relation to the unsuitability of the soil, the flooding and water pollution as well as the traffic and impact on the landscape.

I want to add that this is definitely not in the public interest for the Wallacia community.

state

The Department's assessment is that it is 'satisfied that sufficient information is available or can be provided prior to development commencing, to ensure the impacts of the development can be managed to acceptable levels' The assessment has been based on documents commissioned by the CMCT that have many flaws and have already been addressed by others. There are important issues have not even been taken into account. Surely it's the residents of Wallacia who can decide if the impacts of the development can be managed to acceptable levels!

We are a small established and historic village that is being encroached on by fast growing new developments to the south with the airport and the west in Silverdale and Warragamba. These developments will generate increasing traffic through Wallacia and the prospect of the additional traffic from the cemetery is just too much.

These new communities will be looking for recreational activities and Wallacia Golf course can provide a much needed resource for this wider area. The new infrastructure being built is unlikely to include a new golf course when undeveloped land is at such a premium.

The golf course is our only large area of open green space and could be used for different sporting facilities in the future if a golf course is not the best option. We have no other sports facilities here and once the land has been sterilised with a cemetery any other possibility is lost forever. The proposal about 'the public benefit of a landscaped site open to the public' might sound good but is just not practical. We do not want to be taking children for a ball game, go running or walking dogs through a cemetery with the possibility of disturbing mourners or funerals. There might be open space to begin with but this will get smaller and smaller as the cemetery grows and by then it is too late.

club sounds impressive but there are certainly more options without a cemetery. The proposal by St J

Western Sydney is suffering from increasingly hot summers and we are becoming a heat sink. All the surrounding developments are not helping with the sea of roofs, driveways and roads. We need more trees and more green spaces. This cemetery development will mean the loss of mature trees

as well as the habitat for flora and fauna including the three endangered bat species. The existing landscape around Jerry's creek and other areas on the site which may be degraded can easily be improved in the future without a cemetery being imposed on us.

A cemetery is of no value to our community. There are more than enough cemeteries in our area with two new ones in Greendale Road and another in Luddenham. There are plenty of spaces in the columbarium walls of St Thomas Anglican church in Mulgoa for the ashes of local loved ones. Why should our village be a dumping ground for the dead bodies of other areas?

The golf course is the only direction in which our village can expand in the future. The value of the land must be worth more for a small development of houses as part of a redesigned golf course. The village school and shops and general community life could be enhanced by an increase in population. Even a well designed retirement development would be an asset.

I can appreciate that Sydney is short of burial spaces but we already have more than our fair share in Western Sydney. A comprehensive report on the best locations for cemeteries overall is necessary

The entrance to Wallacia village along Park Road is a welcome landscape of open land. The cemetery would define our village by dominating this. It is not at our back door but at our front door. The whole identity of Wallacia will change being suffocated by this totally inappropriate development.

Please listen to the people who really care about Wallacia. We care - the people who have chosen to live here care.

The dead do not care!

Wallacia should be for the living not the dead.

Margaret Stepniewski