

# Wallacia Progress Association



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5<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Good afternoon to Chair and IPC commissioners,

## A084-18 Wallacia Crown Cemetery proposal objection .

Wallacia Progress Association Inc. Committee would like to express our objection to the large commercial cemetery development proposed for our Golf course in our Historic Wallacia Village. Our local community and neighbouring villages and towns do not want this development.

It has been noted that CMCT and their paid consultants Urbis have of recent referred to others outside of the area as community. As these people they refer to do not live in the local area they do not understand the entirety of the issues that are proposed with this intrusive cemetery development on our community and village. We would like you to take this into consideration.

Our local community and surrounding villages and towns know the roads, rainfall issues, groundwater issues, flooding hazards and amenity issues that this proposal presents as was clearly demonstrated at the IPC meeting on the 27.03.19 by our community representatives and committee. Today we would like to add other important factors for your consideration.

## Precinct plan September 2018 - Vision for the city of Penrith 1.6.

PCC's vision for the city of Penrith is:

"...one of a sustainable and prosperous region with a harmony of urban and rural qualities and a strong commitment to environment protection and enhancement. It would offer both cosmopolitan and cultural lifestyles of a mature city and the casual character of a rural community. In pursuing this vision, council has a long term goal to ensure new areas provide well planned, serviced and cohesive living and working environments.

PCC'S 10 key principles for Sustainable design-

This cemetery development is not in line with this vision for the city of Penrith. The Cmct and Urbis have not worked well with council to meet these objectives; therefor this development should not be approved.

### **1. Principle 1. – Value the sites attributes- preserve ecosystems, protect biodiversity, air ,water, and conservation heritage.**

As a community we feel strongly the sites attributes will not be valued or enhanced. It is said by CMCT that we will have 42 hectares of passive recreation? No community member will enjoy any

part of visiting a cemetery for enjoyment or recreation. If that statement is correct where do they intend to bury 176,000 dead people?

On the contrary to the fact of enjoying 42 hectares of recreation the villagers and community that have enjoyed golf on our course since 1932 will be disadvantaged, with hope of perhaps having a smaller golf course for 3-5 years. I have asked golfers regarding this change and they are not happy as they enjoy 18 holes of golf to play and will possibly look for another course to play. This will decrease patronage and more than likely cause the club to again find financial difficulty. This will then enable CMCT to close the golf course. CMCT again have misled the department of planning with incorrect information. The people in the community of Wallacia feel CMCT think we are fools to print such material that is in fact incorrect and misleading. We need IPC to review this said factual information.

Travers tree assessment report states on our golf course there are native fauna such as micro bat , Peron's tree frog and birds such as Rainbow Lorikeets . All are native Australian fauna and micro bats NSW specific and endangered. The report state that if hollow- bearing tree is identified they will effectively recover any residing fauna and follow best practice guidelines to ensure the best ethical treatment of resident fauna. We now need to consider this statement – what birds or bats frogs will still be there if trees are felled? Answer would be next to none as animal behaviour would tell them to flee and move to greener pastures. 15 visually prominent trees are deemed to be removed due to their location within the development footprint? This is unacceptable.

The frogs might be able to move on if not squashed by machinery or the tree that fell, but the birds and bats will all fly away. They will move on to another spot until again another developer comes along to make large amounts of money to destroy our land. It was also noted that the first tree report discusses mitigation of bats to relocate. This would not be done successfully. After living in the area for a long time we all know the mark of the bats in our Wallacia Village. Summer nights are filled with micro bats and others feeding in our trees and returning home to our beautiful Australian native large trees on our golf course.

Please note the report also states that there are no significant trees within the suburb of Wallacia yet see attachment for register of two large trees that are on our golf course that need protection.

Water protection – CMCT with their proposed development will pollute our Nepean River, Jerrys creek and backing up of putrefied groundwater's flowing into Jerrys Creek will encroach on the people. The waters will flow backwards up Jerry creek into the backyards of properties. This is a Public Health risk and must not be approved. This information was not presented by the CMCT in the GRC HYDRO presentation to the IPC, this was actually the map they omitted and that the consultant was asking for.

See attachment storm event videos from December 2018. This was a storm event after 20 mins of rain fall. This land was not mapped by GRC Hydro. This was shown on the map I provided to IPC in the package I left with you as evidence of accuracy of information from my presentation. We would like the IPC to conduct a further site visit with our committee to Crossman's Reserve, which is really in fact a causeway for drainage STORM WATERS from the village and properties. None of this was mapped by CMCT Consultants.

**2. Principle 2. Create Localised landscapes and Quality Public Domains- based on the indigenous landscape attributes:**

This development will not create a quality public domain but will remove the only large public recreation space in our village and neighbouring suburbs. The landscape as it stands as a localised Australian landscape and enjoyed by our community. A large commercial cemetery development will take away from our quality public domain and destroy our localised heritage landscape that is historic to our Wallacia Village. No community resident will enjoy visiting a cemetery for recreation or passive enjoyment. This cemetery development will change our village forever as villagers will move from the area that they have loved for such a long time. The memory etched in their minds forever of a bad deal for our community and a bad deal that was authorised by our government, to allow a money grabbing exercise for the Catholic Cemetery Trust. Peter O'Meara CEO Cmct will stop at nothing to get this development through. He is only concerned about his money not the village and the affect this will have on the people immediately and in the future when the floods ravage the village of Wallacia again. Other land is more suitable so why is he so determined to destroy our village. We know he is paid very well and is ruthless to obtain his goals. This should be considered when reviewing this development application.

**3. Principle 3. Create Communities.- not just housing estates:**

Our Wallacia Community has been created over many years and the people of Wallacia are proud to call Wallacia home. You have seen strong evidence of this at the IPC meeting in our home town. Our Wallacia community is growing and getting a strong sense of community. This is promoted by our government and our local Penrith City Council in new initiatives like this one. Our Local MP Tanya Davies and PCC Mayor frequently attend our community meetings at our local Wallacia Hall and assist with local information and continued support to build a strong community. This community has seen much growth since these initiatives have been placed. Our community have a strong ethic for comradery and the villagers look after each other. This is a rare but rewarding feel to our community and villagers. This large commercial cemetery development is out of character for our village and will destroy our community forever. It would be in stark contrast to what was planned by government and PCC for our community to authorise this development .Residents will move as they do not want to be near dead corpses and morbid and grieving people. This cemetery development is not in line with PCC objectives and totally inappropriate and destructive.

**4. Principle 4 . Create Employment-**

It was reported only 12-15 people would be employed when built. This is not in line with the objectives for PCC growth in employment as it is minimal.

**7. Principle 7 . Maximise Liveability & longevity - design for durability and adaptability:**

**September 2015 SES HAZARD AND RISK REPORT PGE 29.**

It is stated direct contact with floodwaters can result in people becoming sick due to raw sewage and other contaminants being present in the water. Trauma and stress arising from being evacuated , losing property, cleaning up and having to cope with severely disrupted living conditions can in turn lead to the onset of stress , induced illness and in some cases premature death.

With this being written by SES I reflect on our community with the thought of this cemetery development being authorised. The people have been very anxious, stressed and concerned of their health and well-being initially and when heavy rain event and floods come to town.

This development is not in line with this objective as it does not promote longevity or liveability to our already developed and expanding community. It takes away from all of these aspects. As a flood is a natural disaster and it is stated on SES Report 95% of Wallacia is flooded , also in the 72 hr PMF the following river levels could be reached at Wallacia is 59.6 metres. This cemetery development would not promote liveability or longevity to our community or our Village.

**10. Principle 10. Build –in Community Safety & Crime Prevention Measures-thoughtful design of the public domain.**

As our Wallacia golf course is proposed to be transformed ( re-developed) into a Large commercial cemetery our community feel this is not a thoughtful design. This is not a thoughtful design for the public domain. Our community will be losing treasured recreation space and CMCT are promoting a passive recreational space. This is not in line with the pcc objective a plan for growing Sydney or in line with community expectations of what should be planned in their local rural village.

Referral response- 08.12.2017 - Public domain amenity and safety report – it has come to our committee’s attention that cemeteries bring issues we have not experienced as a community. It is stated on this report cemeteries can be popular locations for people to congregate and engage in anti-social activities such as vandalism, loitering in car parks and the consumption of alcohol. Extra security measures will need to be taken. We as a community feel this development is not in line with the thoughtful design of our public domain as it will bring to our village the above anti-social activities we do not want. We do not want gates entry with security guards and security camera’s operating 24/7 on our golf course land.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these concerns for our community.

Regards

Jane McLuckie.

President.

On behalf of Wallacia progress Association Inc Committee.



# Looking up to the giants

By **Roderick Shaw**

WALLACIA officially boasts two of Australia's largest trees.

One Broad-leaved Apple tree, or *Angophora subvelutina* and one Grey Box, or *Eucalyptus molucanna*, stand on the course of Wallacia Golf Club.

The Broad-leaved stands 36 metres tall and has a 6.2 metre circumference and a crown, or roots, spread of 22 metres.

The Grey Box is 21 metres high and has a 4.78 circumference and a 25 metre crown spread.

They were nominated by Roy Clifford.

The Australian National Register of Big Trees lists them both as Champion Trees, until and unless larger ones of their species are found elsewhere in Australia.

The register's organiser, Derek McIntosh, said he has been interested in trees for many years.

"Since I was a kid I've been interested in bird-watching; I then noticed the trees and my interest in them grew," he said.

"I'd wonder what sort of tree it was and what the bigger ones were."

Mr McIntosh lived in the United States for several years and noticed that the country had a national tree register.

"I decided to do the same for Australia two years ago," he said.

"It's a way of sharing knowledge about trees with people who are interested in them."

He has travelled around Australia, visiting everywhere except the Northern Territory.

Mr McIntosh said he liked to judge the trees himself, to see if they were worthy of being called champions.

"The website is widely read and I always get people responding," he said.

"These trees in Wallacia will be the champions, until another one is nominated."

■ Details: [nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au](http://nationalregisterofbigtrees.com.au)



**High rise:** Derek McIntosh's Laser measures the height of a Broad-leaved Apple tree, nominated as one of two largest of the species, on the course at Wallacia Golf Club.

**Picture: Gary Warrick**