

To the Independent Planning Commission,

I am writing in objection to the proposed Crown Cemetery Development in Varroville. This development cannot and should not go ahead due to the negative impacts it will have on the heritage of the site and the local community.

The proposed cemetery will have significant effects on the heritage of the Scenic Hills site. This location is a vital environmental open space for the City of Campbelltown. It provides a much-needed environmental buffer in the face of encroaching urban development in the area. This is important as the site is already in close proximity to a major highway, which has impacts on the local air quality. Having an environmental site like Scenic Hills clears and expunges the potential health hazards created by the highway. Whilst the cemetery itself would be a 'green site' it would allow and necessitate the development of major structures (e.g. funeral parlours and retailers) that would heavily impact on the natural environment. The roads and infrastructure developments that would need to occur in order to facilitate this cemetery would also disrupt the natural environment in the area. This is a potential detriment to the quality of life of those living in and around the Campbelltown region.

In addition, the proposed cemetery will personally impact the local communities. The proposed development site is right beside both a local church and high school. Mount Carmel Catholic College services over a thousand high school aged students. These young people would be in proximity and in view of funerals and burials on a regular basis. This has the potential to be an ongoing traumatic experience for these youths. To allow the construction of this cemetery is to disregard their experiences and mental health.

The proposed cemetery can cause damage to the cultural community in the Campbelltown region as well. 30.3% of the Campbelltown City community speak languages other than English at home, this represents a wide array of cultures and faiths who live and thrive in the area. Many of these cultures, such as the Chinese, Indian, and Filipino communities have cultural concerns and taboos in regard to living in proximity to cemeteries. The development of such a site may make the ever-growing Campbelltown region a less viable or appealing area for migrants of these backgrounds – stifling the city's potential cultural growth and development. Not to mention the psychosocial impact on the cultural communities already living in and around the proposed site. As a member of the Filipino-Australian community living in Campbelltown, I cannot even begin to express the negative impacts these proposed developments will have on my family and community, many of which have lived here for over 25 years. This site will be detrimental to the quality of life of these communities.

Finally, I believe that the public meeting for this project was staged at clear disadvantage to the community whose quality of life will be directly impacted by the proposal. The community was not given an ample opportunity to voice their concerns at a meeting held on a Monday at 9am. This directly disqualifies approximately 61.3% of the local community who work full time.

How could a meeting that has so much potential to impinge on the lives of the community be held at a time and day where the majority are working and unable to attend?

It would be outrageous for a proposal that has so many potential negative impacts on the City of Campbelltown to be allowed to go ahead. Especially in light of the fact that much of the community has not been engaged in this decision making. I urge that the proposed Crown Cemetery Development in Varroville does not go ahead.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.