

[REDACTED]

3rd January 2018

Penrith City Council
PO Box 60
PENRITH 2751



Objection to DA17/1092 – Proposed Staged Construction of Wallacia Memorial Park

I wish to strongly object to the proposed development of a cemetery and crematorium going ahead in Wallacia. I have lived in Wallacia [REDACTED] for the past 18 years. I am a regular golfer at Wallacia golf course and regular patron of Wallacia golf club. I see it as an injustice that long-term residents like myself who settled in this small rural village should suddenly find themselves set to be living in a village with a cemetery as the centrepiece. It will destroy the village atmosphere.

The golf course is a most inappropriate location for a cemetery as it is right in the centre of Wallacia. It is surrounded on three sides by residential houses, including 'Regal Oaks' (a 70-unit retirement village), the local shops and Wallacia Hotel. Placing a cemetery in the heart of the village will change the character of the village forever. I consider that a cemetery should be established in an undeveloped area, separated from existing residences.

The golf course is bounded by Mulgoa Road and Park Road, both of which are single lane roads in either direction. Should a cemetery go in, the amount of additional traffic attending funerals and as well as funeral processions on these roads, and to a lesser extent, Silverdale Road, will cause congestion and long delays.

I am very familiar with the layout of the golf course and know that it regularly floods after heavy rain in many areas and then takes a couple of days to drain away. This makes it unsuitable for gravesites.

The golf course has a long history, being opened in 1932. It also has the distinction of being the first course in Australia to open membership for Women Associates in 1933. The land the golf course is situated on was actually bequeathed to the community by the late John Fowler with the proviso that the land is always used for recreational purposes.

I am concerned about the air quality in Wallacia following the installation of a crematorium and large increases in traffic going to and from the cemetery resulting in substantial air pollution. In addition, there will be pollution from the forthcoming Badgerys Creek airport with planes flying overhead as well as a further increase in volume of traffic that an airport will bring. All of this combined will place a huge burden of air pollution over a small village.

Placing a cemetery in the middle of an established residential area will reduce the value of properties significantly and unfairly. It will make Wallacia a less desirable place to live. As 'Regal Oaks' is directly opposite the current golf club, its property prices will be considerably de-valued. This is a great concern for local homeowners.

The idea of closing a golf course for a cemetery is farcical and disgraceful. Apart from a small bowling club, there are no other recreational facilities in this area to service the villages of Wallacia, Mulgoa, Luddenham, Silverdale and Warragamba other than the golf course. The golf course and golf club are a big part of the local social structure, along with the visitors it draws to our community to play a round of golf. The golf course is the focus of recreation in Wallacia and the golf club provides a valued social hub for the community.

I am strongly opposed to the establishment of a cemetery in Wallacia and ask that Penrith Council and the State Government reject the proposal.

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