Statement of Mark Murphy
Principal
Marcellin College

I, Mark Murphy, am the Principal of Marcellin College. I have held this position for 10 years. Previously I was Deputy Principal at St. Joseph’s College in Ferntree Gully for 10 years and have been in Catholic Education for the past 33 years. My qualifications include Dip T, BA, BTheol, Postgrad Dip (Student Welfare), MSL, MBA (Exec).

Marcellin College
1. Marcellin College is a Catholic school founded by the Marist Brothers in Camberwell in 1950 with one hundred and seventeen students. The College expanded to Bulleen in 1963.

2. Marcellin is owned and conducted by the Marist Brothers and it derives its inspiration from the traditions and spirit of the Brothers guiding by the teachings and philosophy of St. Marcellin Champagnat the teachings of the Church and current educational theory and practice. The name Marcellin comes from the founder of the Marist Brothers, Saint Marcellin Champagnat.

3. Marcellin Champagnat had very simple and yet rich directions for his schools. His schools were asked to provide opportunities for the young entrusted to their care and to encourage the students to develop their individual talents to the fullest. This is the challenge that Marist schools have endeavoured to meet for the past 200 years.

4. The College motto is – Virtute Ad Altissima, meaning ‘Through virtue and courage to strive for the highest’. Our motto places before us the ideal to provide our students with opportunities to develop their fullest possible potential.

5. It is our hope to assist in the development of the whole person - spiritually, academically, emotionally, culturally and physically. We hope that our students are able to integrate all of these aspects of life, so that, when they leave the College, they can take their rightful place in society as critical thinkers and lifelong learners, able to make a significant contribution to their world in particular in the spirit of Christian service.

6. In order to achieve this we rely upon the support, encouragement and goodwill of parents, and also on the dedicated work of a caring and committed staff. If we are to achieve our goals, then the relationship between parents, students and staff is vital.
Honest and open communication are essential ingredients. One of the characteristics of the college is the cultivation of an environment in which parents feel welcome at all times and able to discuss their son’s performance. It is only in such a positive and caring atmosphere that personal growth can take place.

The College provides secondary school classes for boys from Year 7 to Year 12.

**Students and facilities**

Marcellin College has 1,430 students currently enrolled. It has an annual intake of 243 Year 7 students. Our students mainly come from within the boundaries of our 21 Feeder Parishes. These stretch from Alphington to Donvale, from Eltham to Kew. We do not have any boarders.

In the last ten years the numbers of students in our College has increased from just below 1200 to our current intake of 1430. We believe that due to the topography of our setting that this is the maximum number we can currently take into this school site. We aim to maintain enrolments at this level, so that the current level of funds available to the School is maintained, and so that the School can continue to retain and improve its facilities and education program, and remain competitive in the education market place, as discussed further below. Having said that the College does not rule out expansion of student numbers in the future. Our College Masterplan allows for the continued purchase of property which borders our College which could lead to an increase in space and facilities which could lead to an increase in numbers of students. An increase in student numbers would help to enhance the breadth of subject offerings to our students and therefore support and enhance the students educational experience at Marcellin.

The Marcellin Campus is 14 hectares in area. The campus has several educational and administrative buildings on site, hosting multiple learning areas, and three key sporting facilities: - Bray Oval, Lyons Oval and Gartner Fields.
The sporting facilities are significant to the history of Marcellin College:

- Bray Oval - John Bray was the architect and driving force behind the establishment of the Main Oval in the late 1960’s.

- Lyons Oval - Named after Brother Celcus Lyons (R.I.P.) and Brother Romulus Lyons (R.I.P.). Both men contributed much to the College over many years, including coaching 1st XVII football and 1st XI cricket throughout the 1960’s and 1970’s.

- Gartner Fields - The Gartners have had a long association with the College from the early days. Mr Bill Gartner and Mrs Nell Gartner were instrumental in
the early years of the College helping to establish the Parents and Friends network. Much of this early work was centered around the building of an elevated driveway due to the fact that in the early days of the College there were frequent floods in the winter time. Many trees and other vegetation were planted by our families along with the development of drainage systems on our ovals.

**Teaching Program**

12 The following subjects are offered in 2019:


13 Health and Physical Education and participation in the Associated Grammar Schools of Victoria (AGSV) and Victorian Schools Rugby Union (VSRU) competition is an integral part of the College curriculum. Mr Benjamin Reynolds, Head of Sport, has prepared a statement which sets out the sporting program and potential impacts of the project on the program.

14 There are many benefits to the current site of Marcellin. The fact that we have our sports fields on site rather than having to travel is a huge advantage in that our students learning programs are not disrupted by having to travel to grounds away from the College. The locale is central for our families. Public transport links are very accessible to our students providing them with accessible and safe means of transport to and from school. Many students (75%) arrive by bus, via a PTV bus service, which provides a link between Heidelberg station, Camberwell, Box Hill, Deep Creek and Donvale and the school.

15 As discussed above, Marcellin moved to Bulleen in 1963. The original 2 and ½ acre site at 21 Canterbury Rd. Camberwell, established in 1950 became unsustainable due to the increased demands for enrolment. The College brought the Bulleen site in the late 1950s as in those days the land was cheap and could provide ample room for expansion. There were also no sports grounds at the Camberwell site and no possibility of expansion. The fact that we now have our sporting fields on site
provides a great point of difference in our school compared to those schools who need to travel to their sports grounds.

16 Marcellin is committed to the site. Marcellin has recently completed a $25 million expansion program, with the construction of new classroom facilities, new administration areas, 6 new tennis courts and a new car park. We are in the process of master planning further upgrades and expansion works including a redeveloped resource centre, new technology wing, redeveloped science facilities and improvements to our existing classroom stock and external spaces.

School funding

17 Annual tuition fees range from $11,180 for Year 7 to $12,480 for Year 12. The College does not offer scholarships, however, tuition fees are charged at discounted rates to families with financial constraints.

18 The College receives 55% funding from tuition fees and 45% from State and Federal Governments. Tuition fees (based on 1430 students) are necessary to fund the continued operations of the school.

19 The education market place in the Eastern suburbs of Melbourne is a very competitive one. Marcellin needs to retain and improve its facilities and education program to remain competitive, attract students to the school, and maintain its enrolments.

20 If there is a decline in enrolments, or the College incurs additional costs as a result of accommodating the project, then it may have a significant impact on the College. If there is a significant reduction in available funds, then the College will have to modify its education program to reflect the decreased funding available. This may mean a reduction in the breadth of educational programs and opportunities for our students across all year levels, particularly at the senior years. There could also be an impact on the level of individual learning and pastoral support processes and programs available to our students. The College receives no funding assistance for capital development projects and a decrease in student enrolment would lead to an inability for the College to fund such projects to maintain the school as a contemporary place of learning. In turn, this may impact on the attractiveness of the school for potential families and students, leading to a further decline in enrolments.
Impact on the College

21 I confirm that I have read the witness statements of Mr Briggs, Ms Dunstan and Mr Evans filed on behalf of the school, and parts of the project documentation, as exhibited.

22 My understanding of the project is:

- A construction compound is proposed on the school grounds, occupying part of Lyons Oval and the Gartner fields, extending around 80 metres from Bulleen Road. There are no details available in relation to the proposed use of the compound, including the height and materials of the perimeter fence. I am aware of the potential uses of the compound and the period of occupation between 7 and 10 years as set out in Mr Briggs’ statement.

- The existing egress only point to Bulleen Road removed and a new signalized access/egress to Bulleen Road constructed. I now understand that this access is proposed to be shared with the Manningham Hotel, with a new access road through the school, adjacent to or in part within, Lyons Oval.

- The tunnel entry/exit portal and ventilation stack being located next to the school.

- A sewer is proposed to be constructed through the rugby oval on Gartner fields, and under the school’s internal access roads.

- Marcellin currently has an agreement with Trinity Grammar school to use water that the College has pumped from the Yarra River and stores in Trinity’s pond, for the irrigation of Marcellin’s sports fields. I understand from conversations with representatives from the North East Link authority that Marcellin will not be able to use this water during the construction phase of the project.

23 On reading the project documentation, I am not sure whether the North-East Link Authority proposes to compulsorily acquire land for the proposed shared access between the school and Manningham Hotel, and/or for the proposed sewer through Gardner Fields and under the school’s internal access roads.
The potential detrimental impacts of the project on the school include:

- A reduction in the number of enrollments. I currently lead school tours to prospective families on a fortnightly basis. I am regularly asked what impact the project will have on the facilities and functioning of the school. I am concerned about the impact (reduction) in enrollments over the next 7 years. As discussed above, there is competition for enrolments. The sport program at Marcellin is an attractor to the school. If we are unable to offer the full array of sports and facilities on site, as is currently the case, or off-site, prospective and current students may choose to transfer to or enroll in another school.

- The school will lose its presence on Bulleen Road if the construction compound is placed along Bulleen Road. The aesthetic appeal of Marcellin College is an important initial attractor in bringing prospective families into our school.

- The school will also lose its presence on Bulleen Road if it does not have its own separate access point, and has to share its access with the Manningham Hotel, and/or has part of its frontage compulsorily acquired to accommodate the proposed shared access. In my opinion, there is also a negative perception associated with the school sharing its main access with a licensed hotel function centre and gaming venue, with associated signage, which could detrimentally impact on the reputation of the school, and enrolments to the school.

- In addition to the potential loss of revenue from a reduction in enrollments, there is likely to be increased operating costs placed on the school if it has to accommodate the project in its current form. These increased operating costs include:
  
  (i) Cost of sending boys by bus to alternative sporting venues for both Physical Education classes and sports programs.

  (ii) Costs associated with hiring the additional staff and buses needed to manage this.

  (iii) Moving Physical Education classes off site would lead to reduced instruction time for these classes and lead to adverse outcomes for students in these classes.
(iv) Cost of mains water for irrigation. All Marcellin grounds and gardens are currently irrigated using water which is pumped from the Yarra and stored in the Trinity Dam next door to the College. During the construction phase of the project we have been told that the dam and pump will not be able to be used/accessed. Currently the College uses approximately 10ML (10,000,000 litres) of water on our gardens and fields per annum. The 2018 water bill for our grounds and gardens was $1546.85 which includes works, operating Service fee and the water used. If we had to move to mains water to water our grounds and gardens the estimated figure for water use would be approximately $28503 per annum.

(v) Issues of access by construction vehicles when involved in building programs as per the College’s current masterplan. This could lead to increased construction costs.

(vi) Issues of access to the school site for buses, parents, deliveries, visitors etc.

- As set out above, if there is a decline in enrolments, or the College incurs additional costs as a result of accommodating the project, then it is likely to have a significant impact on the College. The College will have to modify its education program to reflect the decreased funding that is available to it. In turn, this may impact on the attractiveness of the school, leading to a further decline in enrolments.

- It is also totally inappropriate for access to the Manningham Hotel to be provided through the school grounds. In addition to the loss of presence and negative perception associated with the school sharing its access with a licensed hotel, function centre and gaming venue, the shared access is inappropriate for numerous other reasons including:

  (i) The incompatibility of the Manningham Hotel uses (licensed hotel, gaming and function venue, co-located with a Dan Murphy liquor store) with the school use;

  (ii) The potential for vehicle conflict between hotel, bottle shop and function traffic and students; and
(iii) Manningham Hotel signage (licensed hotel/function centre/gaming venue) being placed at the main school entrance.

- Approximately half of the sporting facilities being unavailable for use by students for a minimum of 7 years. For some students this will be their experience for their entire time at Marcellin College. The logistics associated with sporting facilities being provided at Bulleen Park or elsewhere are referred to in Mr Reynolds statement.

- The permanent damage to the sporting facilities following occupation. I refer to the statement of Mr Reynolds on this matter.

- Noise, dust etc effects on school, students and staff well-being and effectiveness of teaching, particularly for classes that are held outside on Marcellin’s sporting ovals. Again, I refer to the statement of Mr Reynolds on this matter.

**Comment on evidence of Mr Evans**

25 I note that Mr Evans has concluded that the impact of noise from the proposed construction compound cannot be assessed because the proponent has failed to specify the intended use of the compound.

26 Mr Evans statement refers to the proponent limiting noisy works to non-sensitive times. The sporting facilities are used during, before and after school and on weekends and school holidays, as set out in the statement of Mr Reynolds.

27 From a logistical point of view, the school is not able to arrange for these uses to be limited to certain times. Sporting timetables, programs and matches are settled months in advance. It is not possible to change them to accommodate the proponent’s construction program.

**Consultation with North-East Link Authority**

28 Marcellin has had a number of discussions with the North-East Link Authority from February 2018 to the present. Over that time, the school has had approximately 12 meetings with North-East Link project representatives. There have also been several telephone and email exchanges over this period. Representative of the North East Link authority the College has met with include Duncan Elliot, CEO, Tallis Richmond (Stakeholder engagement manager), Rebecca Thistleton (Government senior roads
adviser to the minister for transport), Michael Crossman (Environmental specialist), Brodie Wooland (Legal Advisor) and Howard Newman (Engineer).

In the course of these meetings and discussions the following points were raised and discussed:

- We raised the issue of access to the school from Bulleen Road with the proponent on many occasions. One of the early drawings showed an access from the school to Manningham Hotel. We raised this issue with the proponent on several occasions and were advised by Tallis Richmond and other representatives that there was no proposal to provide access to Manningham Hotel through the school and the line on the map was an "error on the plans" which we were advised had been corrected. We now understand that in fact shared access (and carriageway) is proposed. This is vigorously opposed by the School.

- A new internal school road would be constructed at the top (Bulleen Road end) of the Lyons Oval (to replace the existing exit only point to Bulleen Road which is to be closed) linking to the main access from Bulleen Road.

- We were told by Tallis Richmond that the time period for disruption to the College would be up to 2 years. Now we read that this disruption could be anywhere from 7 to 10 years.

- We have been consistently told that post construction there would be no permanent acquisition of land.

- We have been consistently told that access to the school from Bulleen Road will be maintained throughout the project.

- There has also been discussion regarding the provision of alternative sporting facilities during construction.

- We were told that there would be a disruption to our current water supply arrangements regarding the provision of irrigation of the Colleges sports fields and gardens.
We were told that there was a possibility that, at various times during construction, it may be necessary to build a detour road through the lower part of our sporting fields for a period of between 18 months and 2 years.

In the course of these meetings and discussions, at no stage, to the best of my knowledge, did North-East Link Authority representatives:

- Advise the school that the Authority proposed to compulsorily acquire any school land.
- Advise the school that the school’s access was proposed to be shared with the Manningham Hotel.
- Discuss the proposed use of the construction compound, and length of time that the construction compound would be required for.
- Discuss the potential for the construction compound to be reduced in area, or the period of occupation of school land reduced, so that the impact on the school could be minimised, or the impacts of the construction compound on the school in general.

Mark Murphy

Date: 26/07/19