

12 August 2019

Planning Services
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39 SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Director - Industry Assessments

Objection to Baiada Intergrated Poultry Processing Facility Oakburn Tamworth NSW State Significant Development 9394

I object to the proposed development on the following grounds;

- 1. Odour.** This proposed development will produce offensive and annoying odours. If the odours that are currently produced by Baiada's rendering plant that operates on this site are any indication, it certainly doesn't bode well for the odours that will be produced by this processing facility.
Everybody that drives along the Oxley Highway past the proposed development site can tell you how much the rendering plant stinks. This pungent smell is certainly not a very nice welcome or good bye to the travelling public using the Oxley Highway when they visit Tamworth.
- 2. Visual Impact.** This very large structure will have a significant visual impact on the local area. This massive unattractive building will be the first or last impression the travelling public using the Oxley Highway will have of Tamworth.
Not only will the road users be visually impacted by this development all people flying in and out of Tamworth via the airport will be impacted. The operators of the airport would also be concerned about the height (26 metres) of the proposed development.
- 3. Water.** The availability of water is very limited, where will this development source its water. There is not enough water to meet the demands of this development. Tamworth is currently looking down the barrel of going onto level 5 water restrictions due to the present drought. Tamworth is currently growing and needs to be able to guarantee a continued supply of water for residential use and future residential expansion.

4. Flow on effects. This development if approved will have very significant adverse impacts on the Tamworth region. The EIS prepared by the proponent states that the processing facility will need an additional 300 broiler sheds (Section 4.11.7) to supply the plant once it is operational. In addition to this one would assume that there will also be a large number of parent and breeder sheds needed to supply the meat chicks to the broiler farms.

The very large number of sheds needed to supply this processing plant is going to have a very significant detrimental impact on the Tamworth region. The day to day lives of a very large number of people is going to be impacted by all these poultry sheds that will be constructed in the region.

In addition to new sheds it also expected that the existing poultry farms in the Tamworth area will be expanding and ramping up production to meet the requirements of the proposed processing facility. This will further impact the day to day lives of the existing residents of the area.

Some of the issues that will occur as a result of the massive expansion in the number of poultry sheds in the Tamworth region needed to supply the proposed processing facility at Oakburn are as follows;

- **Odour.** It is well known and documented that the main reason for complaints about poultry farms is in relation to the odour they produce and emit. Every year the Environmental Protection Authority receives a large number of complaints about poultry farms in relation to odour issues. The poultry industry itself openly admits that it is simply unworkable to expect a chicken farming operation to operate with no offensive odours.
- **Visual Impacts.** The visual amenity that the existing residents of the area currently have and enjoy will be lost forever when all these sheds are built. The rural views of traditional grazing and cropping areas will be replaced by a large number of unsightly factory farms.
- **Water.** Water is a very scarce and valuable resource. Poultry farms need water, any new farms and increased demand for water at existing poultry farms will take water and water entitlements away from the existing traditional farming operations. It is very doubtful if the water supply needs of so many proposed new poultry sheds and farms could be met.
- **Traffic.** If all the sheds needed are constructed there is going to be a very significant increase in the amount of traffic (mostly heavy vehicles) on the regions roads. Some of the local roads in the region are not up to a good enough standard to carry the large volumes of heavy traffic that all these poultry farms will generate. The local residents who use these roads will be greatly impacted by all this additional heavy traffic.
- **Noise.** The people who have the misfortune to live close to these poultry farms and those people with homes along the haulage routes of the trucks servicing these farms are going to be greatly impacted by the large amount of noise produced by these farms. Broiler farms are a 24 hour a day operation so there will be no respite from the noise that is produced by these farms. Even

the poultry industry itself admits that it is simply unworkable to expect a chicken farming operation to operate with no noise.

- **Dust.** The dust (particulate matter) that will be produced by all these poultry farms will have a detrimental effect on the air quality of the local area. The adjoining properties to these poultry developments will be impacted the most. The cumulative impacts of odour and dust produced by all these poultry farm developments will have a very significant detrimental effect on the region's air quality.
- **Health Impacts.** The quality of life of the region's population will be impacted by all these poultry developments. Local residents will have to breathe in the air contaminated by the offensive odours and dust produced by all these developments on a daily basis. Scientific studies have shown that Air Pollution produced by odour and dust can have serious health impacts such as heart attacks and increased rates of asthma. Local residents will be impacted by the noise that these developments produce, and as a result will suffer from sleep disturbance.
- **Lights.** The people who live in close proximity to poultry farms or live along the haulage routes that service these farms will be subjected a significant amount of headlight intrusion as a result of the large increase in the volume of traffic coming and going to the farms at night.
- **Property Devaluations.** The adjoining landowners to these poultry developments (some of which will be very large operations) will have the value of their properties significantly impacted as a result of the adverse impacts these developments will have on them. People with properties along the haulage routes to and from these developments will potentially have the value of their properties adversely impacted.
- **Land Use Conflict.** It is well known and documented that the poultry industry causes land use conflicts. The impacts of odour, dust, traffic, noise, visual amenity and property devaluations are the main forms of conflict. Every year the Environmental Protection Authority receives a large number of complaints about poultry farms, especially in relation to odour issues. The Department of Primary Industries advises that land use conflict arising from odour from the poultry industry is a significant issue that has the potential to inflame community tensions.
- **Biosecurity Risk.** This very large concentration of poultry developments in the region has the potential to be a major biosecurity risk. Should there be a pollution incident or a contamination issue at any of the poultry developments in the area the entire region could be impacted. With all the vehicle movements to and from the poultry developments on a daily basis there is a very high risk of the spread of disease and pests. All these vehicle movements have the potential to carry with them and spread diseases, insect pests and invasive weeds.

- **Environmental Concerns.** What are the potential environmental ramifications as a result of all these poultry developments? Every poultry development within the region has the potential to have a pollution incident or a contamination issue, what effects would this have on the local environment? There is potential for the local streams and rivers being polluted by these developments as well as the air pollution these developments will emit on a daily basis.

There has been considerable concern and opposition expressed towards proposed large scale broiler farms in the region.

Baiada has development approval for a 70 shed broiler farm on the property known as “Strathfield”, Namoi River Road, Manilla. This development proposal caused considerable angst in the local community, and its approval was challenged in the Land and Environment Court. It was ultimately approved with stringent conditions.

Another major poultry development has been proposed at Rushes Creek (SSD 7704). This development has yet to be determined by the Department of Planning. The proponents of this development are having difficulty in meeting the requirements of the NSW Environment and Protection Authority and the NSW Department of Primary Industries. There is also considerable local opposition to this development proposal.