

19/05/2015

Dear Sir,

Proposed Blayney Small Stock Abattoir – SSD 6594

I am making this submission in opposition to the proposed abattoir at the location on Newbridge Road, Blayney.

I am a resident of Blayney and have lived here for over 22 years

I strongly object to the Metsiya proposal for a number of reasons.

1. The proposed site of the abattoir is only 1 km from a retirement village and is within 2 km of other residential areas of Blayney, as well as being located within 500m of at least 2 other residences. The EIS claims that the prevailing winds at the site are predominantly from the S and SW, and that therefore the probability of odour and dust would not affect the town or immediate neighbours. However this is based on an amalgamation of data collected over a whole year, and does not address the very real possibility of wind shifts. As a case in point, for most of the month following Easter this year, the winds blew almost constantly from the E, SE and NE, which would blow any odours and dust from goat handling right across the neighbouring residences and the town.
2. EPA guidelines for the building of abattoirs state that “a minimum buffer distance to the nearest residence or residential area of 500m is recommended downwind of an abattoir”. I am appalled that this guideline is being ignored in the case of the immediate neighbours of the proposed Blayney abattoir. ANY direction can be downwind on any given day. The wind does not behave in accordance with the designated “flower” diagrams as shown in this EIS. Not only are the main buildings for the unloading and processing of the animals within 500m of a heritage-listed homestead, there is, clearly shown in the plans, a waste-water collection area less than 300m from both the neighbouring residences. Also, the turning area from the main road onto the site is only 100m from the homestead at Athol, making the noise and odour a major issue not only for the people who live there, but also for their established business, a highly successful wedding and function centre. This business will be totally destroyed by an adjacent abattoir, as no bride will want to be married in such close proximity to the noise and odour of an abattoir.
3. Q-fever is a huge health risk which has been barely addressed in the EIS. While all live-stock are potential carriers of the pathogens which spread Q-fever, feral goats are a much, much greater danger to workers, visitors on site, nearby residents and any residents, schools and businesses along the proposed route. Q-fever is spread by bodily waste, and in particular blood and afterbirth from pregnant ewes. Other livestock are husbanded carefully and are rarely transported when pregnant, nor are males transported with females. However feral goats are rounded up from unhusbanded areas, and herded into pens of mixed males and females, including many which are highly likely to be pregnant. The stress of the pre-transportation purging, as well as the added stress of being in a truck for 8 or 9 hours, brings on

spontaneous abortions. The afterbirth is then trampled and the associated pathogens become airborne. Even if the trucks used to transport goats to this abattoir in Blayney conform to the Blayney Council recommendation that they be fully enclosed, the buildings where the animals will be unloaded are clearly not fully enclosed (despite claims from the proponents that they will be) and therefore the pathogens can be carried to nearby residences and to the retirement village only 1km away in a direct line. Q-fever is of particular danger to people with heart conditions and reduced immunity, exactly the types of people who reside in retirement villages. This is a very real health risk to the Blayney community.

4. Blayney has been an “abattoir town” in the past and we all suffered the stigma, the odour and the reduced property values for many years. No abattoir can be odour-free, no matter how much the Metsiya proponents play down the issue of odour. I do not want to see Blayney once again become a depressed town. It was always hard to attract new residents or new businesses to an abattoir town. When the old Blayney abattoir closed, the prevailing mood of the town lifted, property values rose and, interestingly, the crime-rate dropped significantly. The workers who are likely to be employed are most likely to come from Orange or Bathurst, and are unlikely to be inclined to move their families to Blayney when they can easily commute. Therefore this will be of very little benefit to Blayney community or local businesses.
5. This is not a case of “not in my backyard”. An abattoir should not be in *anyone’s* backyard. It should be located far enough away as to pose no risk to any neighbours.

In closing, I am disgusted that this proposal has so little concern for the lives and livelihoods of the immediate neighbours at Athol Gardens Reception Centre. The people who run this centre are valued friends of mine, but they also have a heart for the community of Blayney. Although their function centre is their business, they regularly donate their facilities, free of charge, for local community fund-raising events. The function centre is a top-class facility which brings business and visitors to Blayney and the surrounding villages. Brides come from as far afield as Melbourne and Brisbane, their guests stay in local motels and B&B’s and spend their free time visiting the nearby pubs, cafes, wineries. They employ local people in their gardens, kitchen and bar. All of these employees are going to lose their jobs as a direct result of this proposed abattoir if it goes ahead. It will be Blayney’s great loss.

I confirm that I have not made any political donations of any kind in the past 2 years,

Yours sincerely,

Janet Power