

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

Attention: Manager- Industry Assessments

Dear Sir,

**Proposed Blayney Abattoir- SSD 6594**

My name is Nyree Reynolds, I am an Aboriginal artist of the Gamilaraay Nation and a proud Blayney resident for the last 29 years. I am the Blayney representative in Arts OutWest, am an invited member of the Blayney Health Council, and the Quit for Life Health Council and a community artist/tutor and award winning artist who promotes my town in many ways in many areas: regionally and globally through my art and teaching.

I am a well known and well respected artist and have been awarded many prominent art awards. I was invited to exhibit my paintings in the first Aboriginal art exhibition in Hamburg, Germany in 2013, where I was lucky enough to attend, then on to the UK as part of an art exchange where I represented the central west in Derbyshire at a prestigious art festival. Some of the venues I have exhibited are the Sydney Opera House, the National Museum in Canberra, NSW Parliament House, the Discovery Museum at The Rocks in Sydney, Casula Powerhouse. My work is in private and public collections in the USA, UK, Canada, HK, Switzerland, Germany and Australia.

I teach art within TAFE, schools and correctional centres and community groups.

When I heard the news again in the last few weeks about the proposed goat abattoir in Blayney I was devastated. I am not being overly dramatic and emotive, I am saying exactly how I felt.

Twenty nine years ago we moved to Blayney from the lower Blue Mountains. We researched country towns in the central west and were very impressed with the high school in Blayney and the close proximity to tertiary education in Bathurst as we have two children who are now adults with children of their own. Our son and daughter both studied at and graduated from CSU in Bathurst after graduating from Blayney High so as a family we are very entrenched in our community. I am

also currently studying at CSU. When we moved here we knew it was an abattoir town and even though that was a concern I feel we arrived with a great deal of naivety. We had never lived in an abattoir town before and over the years as the abattoirs buildings and facilities aged the stench that covered the town made the town more and more unliveable, especially with a north easterly wind. There were times we had to have our windows closed, which didn't always stop the smell from the abattoirs coming into our home. On several occasions I rang the EPA in Bathurst when the polluted air became unbearable. One might say why didn't we move from Blayney? Who would buy a house here when the abattoirs were in full stink?

It was a absolute blessing when the abattoirs closed as there needed to be a lot of work undertaken to bring them up to acceptable standard and it would seem that was a difficult procedure. I appreciate that as technology has moved forward this proposed facility would have state of the art mechanisms in place to stop odours, and would not have the same issues that we shared daily with the old Blayney abattoir, but I doubt whether the problems of odour could be eliminated altogether. Peoples' willingness to accept less than ideal has grown over the years as well as we have a new population of residents who have moved to Blayney and would not know what Blayney was like when the abattoirs were in full production.

Gradually our lovely little town became what it is today. A place where we breathe clean air, where the birds have returned, a town we can be proud to say "This is our town, welcome to it, share our beauty and our lifestyle."

And now this news. To say it's devastating is an understatement. A goat abattoir. Within sight of our town. Multiple goat carrying trucks daily passing our door, as sadly, we live on the route, passing Blayney Public School, Blayney High and Millthorpe Public School, then going through the centre of town past the Post Office, the aged care units, past a prominent tourist facility to their killing fields. Seven days a week. Four and a half thousand goats a day. One goat killed ever two minutes, I have estimated. I had no idea there are that many goats in Australia.

Another concerning aspect regarding the amount of trucks travelling along Orange Road is the state of the road with all that heavy traffic. Some years ago there was a hump on the road right outside our home and the trucks that came along Orange road used to hit the hump with a heavy thud. This went on for a very long time until it was finally fixed but not before it caused damage to our home. This hump has since returned and further cracks have appeared in the structure and there were times when we were inside our home we could feel the vibration of the trucks going by. As previously mentioned the road has returned to that state of disrepair so to have the amount of proposed trucks would be very bad news indeed for us and our home's structure.

I am very concerned about Q Fever wafting into our home because my 83 year old husband has a respiratory condition and this dust from the trucks carrying the

goats would be very alarming and frightening. We didn't choose to live here to have our home invaded with a dust borne disease.

May I implore whoever is responsible for this proposal to rethink the location of this abattoir and if it must go ahead for the benefit of employment in the Blayney Shire please consider that it needs to be much further away and the route to it changed right away from our town. I trust good sense and understanding of the well being and health of the town residents will drive this decision to its logical outcome. We do not need to regress to once more being an abattoir town. We left that behind when the abattoirs closed, we have moved forward and would like to continue moving forward.

Yours sincerely,

Nyree Reynolds  
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