

Smallstock Abattoir – Application Number SSD6594

1. **Q Fever.** The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) includes a Risk Summary (Appendix C) and Health Risk Assessment (Appendix N). The Risk Summary does not include a risk associated with Q Fever.

Q Fever has been identified in the Health Risk Assessment report as one of the zoonotic diseases that could occur at the proposed abattoir, along transport routes and in the town of Blayney.

The Health Risk Assessment Report was commissioned by Metziya Pty Ltd. The Report classifies the probability of Q Fever occurring as either negligible or very low.

Issues

- a) **The Health Risk Assessment should have been initiated by council – not by the proponent.**
- b) **Recent medical advice submitted to Council by a retired GP with extensive rural medicine and surgical experience in three states has correctly raised a growing level of community concern about the probability of Q Fever occurring and the severe health consequences if it does.**
- c) **The Athol Homestead is an important community reception facility that is close to the proposed abattoir site and therefore will be adversely affected if the abattoir is built across the road.**
- d) **The abattoir should be located well away from the Blayney township in order to remediate the risk of Blayney residents being affected by aerosol born Q Fever.**

Benefit of a New Abattoir To Community.

Any benefit to the Blayney community is likely to be offset by the adverse impact on the town's reputation if it becomes an "abattoir town". Visitors to the Central West will bypass Blayney. Abattoir employees will most likely travel from their existing homes to work – as is the case of many of the Cadia mine workers. Many residents of Blayney and surrounding areas use the open air sporting and leisure areas in Blayney, particularly the tennis club and superb children's playing grounds where I spend much time with my grandchildren when they visit from Sydney. Many people may be deterred from using these facilities because of the proximity of an abattoir.

Blayney Council's priority should be to promote and develop Blayney as a place of interest to tourists and visitors. Council and the State Government should be focusing on the improvement of the quality of life in the Blayney community and not the questionable economic benefits to the community and small businesses as a result of the employment of transient workers at an abattoir. If the development is approved there may unintentional adverse social and health consequences.

