

Sue England
ELTHAM, Vic

Planning Services
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001
Attention: Manager- Industry Assessments

Dear Sir,
Proposed Blayney Abattoir- SSD 6594

I am an ex resident of Blayney, having lived and worked at the local high school for over 30 years. I have experienced living in Blayney both during the 'reign' of the old abattoir and in the years after its closure, so felt it worthy of offering a perspective and making this submission in opposition to the proposed location of the new abattoir.

The beauty of the central west is well renowned. When I was first moved to Blayney, I used to hear the phrase "God's country" when people spoke of the surrounding area and having been resident for a quite a few years, I certainly understood why.

However, the abattoir which was operating on the eastern edge of Blayney in earlier years, whilst offering employment to some of the residents, also had a significant negative impact, and I believe its close proximity to the town was a major factor.

Firstly and more obviously, the amount of air pollution was concerning. On certain days, depending on the wind direction, the smell was unbearable. Going outside into the school grounds or even the corridors was not something you relished. The classrooms weren't necessarily free of the smell either, so not conducive to effective learning.

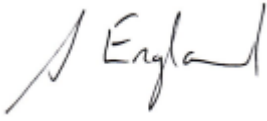
However, the greatest side effect was the impact on the school environment at a social level. A significant number of the disputes that arose in the corridors and the grounds of the school were directly related to disputes that had arisen at the abattoir. The tensions from the workplace permeated the school, through students bringing to school what they had heard at home or around town.

Of course there were other social factors in the school environment, adolescence being what it is, but when the abattoir closed, the difference was palpable. It was like a dark cloud had been lifted from the town and school. There was an initial panic that Blayney would lose many of its residents because of lack of employment, but when that failed to eventuate as alternatives were found, there was a distinct calm that eventually settled. On the school front, I felt there was a considerable downturn in the amount of aggression and disruption, as well as a lessening in the potential for conflict to erupt.

Blayney grew to be a welcoming and happy place to live and work. It would be sad for Blayney to return to those days dominated by the risks associated with another abattoir so close to town.

I hope that the decision about the location of this abattoir be made with due consideration to the well-being of all Blayney residents.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sue England'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'S' and 'E'.

Sue England