

Col Devenish
Unit 25
Anglican Retirement Village
7 Burns Street
BLAYNEY NSW 2799

21 May 2015

Planning Services,
Department of Planning & Environment,
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Attention: Manager – Industry Assessments

Dear Sir

Proposed Blayney Abattoir – SSD 6594

I was born in Blayney and apart from a short period I have lived here all my life. I owned and operated Devenish Bus Service based in Blayney for 32 years. I am now retired except for driving the school bus on the Errowanbang/Carcoar/Blayney run each day in school term.

I used to have a large house and gardens in Blayney but after a couple of heart attacks decided to move into the Anglican Retirement Village in Burns Street. I have lived here for 5 years. My kitchen window overlooks Henry Street and out to the SeaLink warehouses.

I am strongly opposed to an abattoir development on Newbridge Road, just a short distance from our retirement village. I have no problem at all with a new abattoir but I can't understand why the government doesn't insist on a sensible location. To be clear, I am not saying "not in my backyard" but "not in anybody's backyard".

There are a lot of reasons for this but the main ones are these:

1__ My main concern is transport as all the trucks will pass by the retirement units on Burns Street, including mine. At the moment we have freezer trucks who park outside on Burns Street overnight, with their refrigeration units going all night. I think this is because once they have unloaded their cargo at SeaLink they have to rest to make sure their log books are OK. Today there is one over the road just down from the post office; it's been there all afternoon. The goat trucks will be coming past fully laden 24 hours a day. They will also be tempted to park in Burns Street on their way back, for the same reason.

If we had B Doubles loaded with wild goats (4,500 of them each day) then the heavy traffic will probably more than double. They will be noisy and stink. Surely a small country town street should not have to put up with this (it's bad enough as it is) when if it was on the highway somewhere there would be no problem.

2__ I lived in town when the old abattoir was operating. After it closed, the quality of life improved enormously. There is no way, whatever they say or do, that there won't be a return to some of the same old problems. This could all be avoided by building the abattoir out of town. I know the site is ideal for the applicant for obvious financial reasons, but no consideration has been given, in picking the site, to the obvious disadvantage of this location to the people in town.

3__ Goats are very hard to contain. When the old abattoir was operating I remember when they first decided to kill a few goats back in the 1980s. I was living in Ewin Street at the time

about 450m away. When a truck was unloading its goats they escaped. Next thing I knew was I had 5 goats on my balcony! The goats roamed all over town and it took Council days to finally round them all up.

4__ Finally I want to comment about floods. Even in my 5 years in the retirement village we have had a few floods which have come right over Henry Street and right up to the retaining wall in front of my kitchen window. It is my unit on the front cover of the Flood Study Report. The whole area along the eastern side of the Belubula gets covered in water in wet seasons. What worries me is that if there is an abattoir in the middle of it they won't be able to stop contamination getting into the water run off which will flow right past the retirement village. If they divert the water into the Belubula upstream it will be worse. That seems to me to be another big risk which those of us in the retirement village shouldn't have to put up with, caused only by the inappropriate location.

I don't know anything about Q fever but have heard it is a worry with feral goats, particularly for older people with heart conditions, of which I am one. I hope someone makes sure that we will not be at risk of getting it.

Yours sincerely

Col Devenish

I confirm that I have not made any reportable political donations in the previous two years.