

Allan Creasy
8 Ewin Street
BLAYNEY NSW 2799

2 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 am an 80 year old pensioner. I was born and schooled in Blayney and have lived here all my life, apart from 7 years working as a sawmiller in Oberon. I worked at the abattoir in Blayney for 31 years. I lived on my own in Blayney with my mother.

I remember very clearly to this day contracting Q fever about 40 years ago, which nearly killed me. At this time I lay in bed for 2 days and couldn't get up. I had a 2 day beard. I was itching all over and covered myself in a white powder to ease the itch. My mother saw me and said: "What's wrong with you? I'd better go to the neighbours and ring the doctor". We had no phone at home in those days. Dr Jones came round and saw me and said: "Oh my gawd! I'm taking you straight to the hospital in my car." When we arrived at the hospital Dr Jones asked me to show the nurse my upper body. A little embarrassed I took off my shirt and singlet and I'll swear you couldn't put a pin between the red blotches. I was sweating like anything and felt sick as a dog for a very long time. I gave off an unpleasant smell which was very embarrassing, even after I got back home. I think I was in hospital for about a month. I had 2 months' off work.

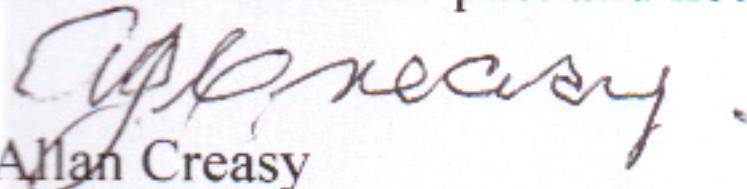
The head meat inspector at the time, Ian, told me that if my temperature had risen 3°F more I wouldn't be here. I think, but can't be sure, that it was then 106°F. I had a particularly bad reaction. Others I know only had 1 or 2 weeks off.

At the abattoir we had a "big chain" and a "little chain". At that time the little chain was used for killing goats. I worked on the big chain, but had to walk past the little chain to get to work. I was told by Dr Jones that simply walking past the little chain was enough to catch Q fever from the goats that were killed there. An abattoir is one place I would never ever work again.

I have heard about the plans to build an abattoir in Blayney to kill over a million goats a year from western NSW. I read a letter in the Chronicle that said we are able to make comments and it is not too late for it. I am not the sort of bloke to speak up but I feel really strongly about this. A lot of people don't realise the risks and I want my story to be known. If these goats are going to be trucked through town then it could be a disaster for people like me, who had an almost fatal reaction to Q fever just from walking past the little chain.

I am therefore totally against this plan. It would be crazy and irresponsible these days to put up a new abattoir so close to town. It's really important to avoid trucking so many goats through town. My experience could happen to dozens of people a year, simply by having goats going past their home, school or worst still the retirement village on Burns Rd.

I read a letter by Joan Thwaites in the Blayney Chronicle last week. I knew Joan's late husband Jack very well. I totally agree with what she said in the paper. I am passing on my our story so that people can learn from the past and not make a bad mistake.



Allan Creasy

[dictated by Mr Creasy and read and signed by him. He confirmed that he had not made any political donations in the previous two years]