

Mr & Mrs Donald and Shirley Burrridge  
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NSW 2799  
Phone: 0439 441 564

5 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 make this submission in opposition to the proposed Feral Goat Abattoir at the location on Newbridge Road, Blayney NSW 2799. I am a resident of Blayney and have lived here for 20 years.

I am the Aged Care Manager at Lee Hostel, Blayney. Lee Hostel is modern aged care facility adjacent to Blayney Hospital and Medical Centre providing 25 beds (and one respite bed) on Osman Street, near its junction with the Mid Western Highway.

I strongly object to the proposal because:

- As a Registered Nurse I have personally treated and cared for people who have contracted Q-Fever; it is a life threatening infectious disease.
- I am very worried about the health risks (Q-Fever) of transporting 4,500 goats per day through the streets of Blayney, right next door to the public school, the high school, the preschool centre and the retirement village, not to mention cafes, shops, churches and banks. With what we know today about the transmission of this disease, it seems to me to be reckless and irresponsible to allow an abattoir at this location.
- Because of my current role as Aged Care Manager, I am very conscious of the risks to older people particularly those with chronic respiratory conditions. Lee Hostel is only 500m away from the junction of Adelaide St and Burns Road where the goats will be transported. This poses some risks of Q fever infection to our residents, but not so much as those in the Anglican Retirement Village which is right on Burns Road!

**Transmission**

- *Coxiella burnetii* is highly infectious and very hardy – it can survive in dust or soil for a year or more, and can travel in dust for long distances in the wind. Animals that breathe the dust become infected – cattle, sheep, goats (particularly feral or wild goats), as well as domestic dogs, cats and native animals including kangaroos and bandicoots.

- These animals are carriers of the disease. They don't show any symptoms themselves but the bacteria multiply in the placental tissues, amniotic fluids and membranes, and in their mammary glands. When they give birth they shed the bacteria. They also shed it through their faeces, urine, milk, and blood.
- Humans can pick up the bacteria when they come into contact with these materials (or something contaminated by them like straw, wool, hair or hides).
- Humans may breathe in the bacteria in droplets, dust or dried matter in the air, or ingest it via unpasteurised milk from an infected animal.
- Those most at risk are abattoir workers (and their sub-contractors), sheep shearers, and farmers. But anyone who comes into contact with animals can be infected, including mechanics, farm and station hands, vets, shearers and wool classers, livestock buyers and auctioneers, and pelt and hide processors.
- I am deeply concerned that many goat trucks will be deployed from QLD & Far West NSW per day to deliver the required 4,500 feral goats for Halal slaughtered. This will result in a major health risk as the aerosol transmission of Q fever along the livestock transport route, to the Blayney community will occur between 6am to 6pm.
- It will amount to a doubling of heavy vehicles through the main street of town which is the main pedestrian and shopping street with rear to kerb parking. The number of trucks is already too high.
- I lived in the town when we had the previous abattoir and the best thing that has happened to the town was the closure of that abattoir which was close to all amenities. It is now a much nicer, cleaner and safer town to live in and raise children.
- I feel this abattoir is too close to our Blayney water catchment area.
- I am not opposed to a new abattoir, but the location is wrong because it is far too close to town. Whatever they say the risks to the community from noise and smell will always be there. Once it is built there is nothing that can be done about it.

I am also worried that it may mean the closure of the Athol Gardens wedding reception centre business which is a great asset to our town and brings many visitors.

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

Yours sincerely

Shirley Burrridge.