

Colin Hewitt
20 Water Street
Blayney NSW 2799

20 May 2015

Planning Services,
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
SYDNEY NSW 2001
Attention: Manager – Industry Assessments

Dear Sir

Proposed Blayney Abattoir and continued operation of Sealink – SSD 6594

I am a lifelong resident of Blayney Shire. I live with my wife and three children, aged 12, 9 and 6 years. We live in Water Street, opposite Blayney High School. We have lived there for 15 years.

I work for Blayney Council and have just completed 20 years continuous service in its outdoor staff. Most of my work is on building and maintaining Council infrastructure. For the last 6 weeks I have been working on the upgrade of the intersection between the Mid-Western Highway and Ogilvy Street.

Because of my job with Council I was worried about whether I should write this letter in opposition to the abattoir proposal. But having been encouraged to go to the community meeting last Thursday night and attending, I have decided to write. There are so many people in town who are against the abattoir on the Newbridge Road site that I feel I am speaking for a lot of people in this letter. I just hope they take the trouble to write, because a lot of people have been told that it is a done deal and there is no point in writing.

My first worry is for the health and safety of our children. The truck route goes directly past Blayney Public School and Blayney High School. We have 2 children at the Public School, and one at the High School. I heard Dr Shepherd speaking about Q fever and it seems a very nasty disease and the risk of our children getting it if there is an outbreak is most worrying. Dr Shepherd seems to know what he is talking about. I am extra concerned as our eldest child suffers with asthma, which makes her more vulnerable to catching the disease. My wife Brooke works at the local pre-school here in town, which is also not far away from the transport route. It is only because they want to put the abattoir up in Newbridge Road that the trucks will have to come along this route. Leaving many children at increased risk of becoming sick. I am also concerned about the increase of heavy traffic at the school crossing this is already a busy road.

Not only are the schools on the route but it goes past Carrington Park, where the Farmers Markets are held, and Councils community centre, where lots of gatherings are held.

The second thing I can speak about is the heavy traffic damage to our roads. I worked on Newbridge Road when we did a resealing a year or so ago. The pavement was breaking up and it was potholed because of the Sealink traffic, made worse by the very wet sub base

conditions on the floodplain. I have been told that heavy vehicles will more than double if the abattoir goes ahead, so we will need to be always repairing this stretch of road.

There is also going to be problems in the main street. For the last 6 weeks, working on the Highway/Ogilvy St intersection, we have had to put up with constant abuse from drivers who do not like having to wait or slow down. It has also affected the nearby businesses. When the heavy vehicles are doubled, with reverse parking slowing things down, plenty of drivers will get impatient and take risks. Our town is not used to this level of traffic. The intersection at the post office is already busy and quite dangerous. This would only become worse with large trucks trying to cross the main road.

There is another reason I want to write because I know a bit about it from personal experience, and that is the effect on the Athol Gardens business. For the last 6 years I have worked on the bar at Athol on most Saturday afternoons/nights in the season. I know what a great venue this is. It is amazing how many brides and grooms and their guests come from out of town and stay in Blayney or nearby for the weekend. The bar is set up outside on the northern verandah, overlooking where the guests have their drinks and canapes before the meal, and later mingle for a drink and a chat until we close. This is the spot that overlooks the abattoir site. The view of the abattoir and potential smell and noise couldn't be worse for the guests as well as the staff. The owners have said that they will probably have to close if it goes ahead. Knowing the venue as I do and what attracts people to it I think that is probably right. This would also in turn affect my family as this second job helps me financially to support a young family as my wife works part time.

I am opposed to an abattoir at this location and strongly suggest that you encourage the applicant to select another suitable location. I trust that you will give this decision the very careful consideration it and the people of Blayney deserve.

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

Yours sincerely

Colin and Brooke Hewitt