

Geoff & Helen Bottom  
68 Browns Creek Road  
Blayney NSW 2799

14 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**

We are writing in relation to the proposal to build an abattoir for halal slaughter of rangeland goats from western NSW. By way of background, we are long term residents of Blayney. Our perspective on this proposal comes from:

First, our approach to helping out and looking after the local community and doing what we can to assist. Geoff was the Blayney Australia Day “Citizen of the Year” in 2011 for his contribution to the community. We have experienced the social issues that communities face with an influx of abattoir workers. In the interests of the community, we are passionate that this does not happen again to Blayney.

Secondly, a serious concern about exposure of our children to Q fever, as they attend Millthorpe Public School with classroom and outdoor play areas only metres from the transport route. There is a pedestrian crossing in front of the school manned by a traffic attendant who slows and stops traffic while children, who have been waiting beside the road, are allowed to cross. One of our daughters, Fiona, is currently undergoing treatment for a brain tumour, including regular chemotherapy and blood transfusions. Any risk of fever like symptoms would be a disaster for her recovery.

So far as specific grounds are concerned we mention the following:

- 1) The proximity of the proposed abattoir to town is a real problem. The EIS uses one sample residence approximately 950m from the abattoir. What it doesn't mention is that this residence is next door to the loading bay for the local IGA supermarket. The parking area where groceries are loaded into cars is probably closer as the crow flies to the abattoir site than the “Palmer” residence – I would say even closer than 950 metres based on google maps. Our concern for the proximity to IGA is not theoretical but based on real knowledge of the site and what gets loaded and unloaded there. Geoff was the manager of IGA for 8 years until 2013. He then helped establish and now manages the new IGA supermarket in Bathurst (incorporating Harris Farm Markets fruit and vegetables).
- 2) Because of the location, there is no way to avoid the stock trucks travelling with their load of goats right past all the schools - the pre-school, the primary school and the high school on their way to Newbridge Rd. Surely this is a foolish, almost negligent, location when selecting a site for a new abattoir. I know it is financially convenient for the applicant, but the rest of town pays the price.

- 3) This seems like a massive development with a big price tag which helps rid the State of its feral goat problem. I'm all for this, but for heaven's sake it should be at a place where it can be accessed by trucks using town by-pass routes. Newbridge Rd Blayney must be one of the worst possible locations when it comes to the interests of the local community and the public generally. And even the jobs to be created will mostly come from the regional centres, not Blayney itself. It seems to me that there is no upside for Blayney, just the rump end of the deal. There is a lot of unrest and opposition to this in town, I just hope people write in to the Department. I know that the developer is spreading the word that it is a done deal, presumably to discourage people from writing
- 4) We are particularly proud of our town these days as it is now developing tourist and hospitality businesses and activities and drawing out of town visitors, such as the recent Farmers' Markets. There is also the Athol Gardens function centre which is a gem in the district. The owners have done an enormous amount for the community over the last 10 years. Geoff has personally organised many charity and fundraising events there. The owners have given all their time in planning and setting up, meeting the running costs and providing the venue absolutely free of charge. The wedding reception side of the business brings visitors for the weekend into the region from far and wide. It can't possibly continue to operate as it does with an abattoir so close.

Any new abattoir should be well out of town and we would then not be so concerned.

Yours sincerely

Geoff Bottom

Helen Bottom

(We have not made any reportable political donations in the previous two years)