

24th June 2015

Submission: The proposal to build a [new poultry facility](#) on Sturt Highway at Euroley near Narrandera.

The proposal to build a new poultry facility on Sturt Highway at Euroley, near Narrandera, is abhorrent. The proposal plans to confine close to 4,000,000 chickens in intensive facilities at any one time.

As community consultation is an integral part of the planning process for such facilities, it is my view that such a facility is unwanted, unnecessary, and will be to the detriment of the local community, the environment and the lives of millions of intelligent animals.

I object to the proposal for the following reasons.

ENVIRONMENT

Animal agriculture is a major cause of environmental pollution and degradation. It is one of two leading causes of human-driven climate change, as well as the leading cause of water pollution and depletion.

The animal agriculture sector generates more greenhouse gas emissions as measured in CO2 equivalent – 18% – than all forms of transport combined.

This proposed facility will contribute greatly to this global problem by the means of:

- High-energy feed (typically fed high-energy crops such as corn and soy, which is dependent on large amounts of chemical fertiliser),
- Fuelling factory farms (cool, heat, ventilate facilities as well as energy used to operate farm machinery to cultivate and harvest crops for feed),
- Processing and packaging (slaughtering animals and packaging and transporting animal products emits millions of tonnes of CO2 annually),
- Deforestation (forests are important carbon sinks and deforestation for animal agriculture—both for clearing land for feed crops and for grazing—is devastating the ability to reduce the amount of carbon in the atmosphere).

Livestock and their by-products actually account for at least 32,000 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) per year, or 51% of all worldwide greenhouse gas emissions (<http://www.worldwatch.org/node/6294>).

It has been confirmed that Earth is now in its 6th mass extinction (<http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/1/5/e1400253>) and it is entirely due to human activity. By establishing this proposed facility, we would be contributing an even greater amount of greenhouse gas emissions, pollution and land degradation to an already massive problem. It goes against our very real need to survive as a species.

WATER DEPLETION

The 2015 World Water Development Report (<http://www.unwater.org/publications/publications-detail/en/c/281166/>) advised that the demand for water around the world will increase by 55% over

the next 15 years. With current supplies, that means only 60% of the world's water needs will be met in 2030.

Currently, over 70% of global chicken production comes from industrial factory farming systems. These factories are having a devastating impact on our water. The agriculture sector is the largest user of freshwater resources. In 2000, agriculture accounted for 70% of water use and 93% of water depletion worldwide. Just imagine how much that has climbed now, 15 years later.

Why would Australia want to invest in a facility, which drains our available water to create inefficient food products? Plant-based foods do not use even close to as much water while able to produce more calories.

We are running out of available water and need to implement logical, rational and smart food systems, which help conserve water. A 3.9 million chicken factory farm is anything but logical, rational or smart.

HEALTH

Human beings have no physiological need to consume animal products. Millions of people throughout the world live on plant-based diets that are anti-inflammatory, disease reducing and better for our global environment and morality.

Australia is in an obesity epidemic. Almost a quarter of our country's children and 63% of the adult population is overweight (<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-05-29/australian-obesity-rates-climbing-fastest-in-the-world/5485724>). While there are a variety of factors which can contribute to such a problem, such as sugar, oils and fats, as well as certain problematic associated syndromes, meat consumption is associated with obesity as it is high in energy and fat content.

There are almost countless studies linking meat to obesity, inflammation, type 2 diabetes, heart disease and some cancers.

Why would we want to encourage further meat consumption when the health implications are so vast? Such health problems ruin lives, families and place an enormous burden on an already overburdened health care system, while producers of animal products go unhindered.

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Every single year over 600 million individual chickens are grown and killed for meat in Australia while the vast majority are factory farmed in horrifying conditions.

These chickens live their short lives in very close confinement with tens of thousands of other chickens who are all equally feeling stressed, anxious, frustrated, in discomfort and distress because of such environments.

These animals are not allowed to live in small communities where they form complex social relationships with fellow chickens and live out their lives with freedom, and without their bodies being exploited and used. They are, instead, kept drastically confined where they exist for their entire lives in cages or on filthy shed floors with still no room to stretch their wings until the day they are brutally killed.

Chickens are, in fact, incredibly smart. They are able to solve complex problems, empathise with individuals that are in danger and can recognise 100 individuals of their own kind. Intensive factory

farming disregards the fact that chickens have this emotional, intellectual and social complexity by denying their natural behaviours.

The current laws do little to protect “food” animals when in reality, the fundamental interests of farmed animals, including those of meat chickens, are not protected by law at all.

These animals suffer horrible every day of their short, exploited lives.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I am against the proposal to build a new poultry facility on Sturt Highway at Euroley, and the evidence as to why is undeniable.

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Michelle Kelly.