

Planning Services
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39 SYDNEY NSW 2001

22nd April 2016

Attention: Director - Industry Assessments

Dear Sir / Madam,

Environmental Impact Assessment – Bourke Small Stock Abattoir – Application Number SSD7268

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above proposal. It is acknowledged that this project has been referred to Local Land Services (LLS) Western Region due to its close proximity to crown land currently managed or controlled by the LLS as Travelling Stock Reserve and Stock Watering Place.

The LLS Western Region has reviewed the EIS report. The proposal includes the construction and operation of a small stock abattoir approximately 14 north of Bourke in north western NSW. The abattoir will have the capacity to process up to 6000 head per day for export, comprising goats, sheep and lambs. The project represents significant economic investment in the Bourke region with a capital investment of 60 million and provides for 200 jobs. The project meets the requirements of State Significant Development (SSD) as defined in the State and Regional Development SEPP and is being assessed under the EP&A Act and the EP&A Regulation.

The following comments are made for your consideration.

Impact on Travelling Stock Reserve and Stock Watering Place

Adjacent to the proposed development site, there is a travelling stock reserve (TSR) and a stock watering place (SWP) – called Gidgee Camp Bore. The proposed development should consider the impacts on the TSR and SWP during the construction and operation of the abattoir.

The main issues are:

- The proposal will result in substantial increases in traffic along the Mitchell Highway during construction and operation. Road safety may become an issue at times when stock movement is occurring along the TSR and SWP. The potential for collision with stock and disruption to stock movement activities should be acknowledged.
- The Gidgee Camp Bore SWP has a ground tank and bore. It is noted that the potential for groundwater contamination by wastewater seepage is unlikely given that the groundwater will not be intercepted and the mitigation and management measure outlined in section 13.5 of the EIS. However, a management action to monitor groundwater contamination by installing and monitoring piezometers should be considered.

General Comments

- **Local Land Services Western Region Local Strategic Plan**

The proposed development is considered to be consistent with the **Local Strategic Plan** for the Local Land Services Western Region. The Local Strategic Plan 2015-2020 outlines the strategies and actions that will be implemented over the next five years to achieve the vision of strong communities, resilient landscapes and competitive agriculture in the Western Region. To achieve this regional vision the Local Strategic Plan identifies three primary goals and of particular relevance to this project is GOAL 1: Resilient, self-reliant and prepared local communities and GOAL 2: Biosecure, profitable, productive and sustainable primary industries.

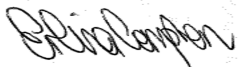
The proposed development will benefit the Bourke region as well as the broader north western region of NSW by providing support and mechanism for landholders to manage threats to improve biodiversity and opportunities to implement land management practices that build productive agricultural enterprises, biosecure primary industries and resilient landscapes.

- **Property Vegetation Plan**

In section 4.3.5 of the EIS, reference is made to the property vegetation plan (PVP) for the broader property "Artesia" and that the PVP will have to be amended to exclude the project site. Contact is to be made with the LLS prior to DA approval to discuss the PVP and the variation that may be required.

Thank you for providing the Local Land Services Western Region the opportunity to comment on this proposal. Should you require any further clarification you can contact Silvana Keating, Team Leader Native Vegetation on 03 50219404.

Yours faithfully,



Erlina Compton

Acting General Manager

Local Land Services Western Region