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Nicole Armit  
Principal Consultant  
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Our ref: SSD 6594 and 14/11918-3

Dear Ms Armit

**State Significant Development – Issues Letter**  
**Blayney Abattoir in conjunction with the existing Blayney Sealink Cold Store Complex**  
**(SSD 6594)**

The exhibition of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the above project ended on 25 May 2015.

All submissions received by the Department during the exhibition of the project are available on the Department's website (<http://majorprojects.planning.nsw.gov.au>). In accordance with clause 85A(2) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000*, the Secretary requires you to respond to the issues raised in these submissions.

The Department has reviewed the submissions received and considered the proposal as detailed in the EIS. The Department has identified a number of key issues with the proposal relating to Q-Fever, odour, site location, noise from truck movements, and wastewater/ water management. These issues are outlined in **Schedule 1**. The Department will also require additional information to complete its assessment as outlined in **Schedule 2**.

It is considered that a Response to Submissions (RtS) should be prepared identifying how you have addressed issues raised by the submissions and the Department. The RtS must also demonstrate measures to minimise any environmental impacts of the proposal. During the preparation of the RtS, please continue to consult with the community, affected local residents and relevant Government authorities.

Departmental Officers are available to discuss the issues raised in the public submissions and this letter, and in this regard, please contact Robert Byrne, Senior Planner, Industry Assessments on (02) 9228 6538 or email robert.byrne@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

  
Chris Ritchie 23/6/15.  
**Manager**  
**Industry Assessments**  
As the Secretary's nominee

## **SCHEDULE 1 - DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING KEY ISSUES**

### **Q-Fever**

The proposal involves an estimated 12 daily deliveries of livestock by semi-trailer and/or B-double to the proposed abattoir. The proposed haul route includes the main streets of the village of Millthorpe and the township of Blayney, and would also pass through other communities, numerous isolated residences and commercial livestock operations.

The Department notes the issues raised in relation to the potential impacts from Q-Fever relate to:

- the operation of the abattoir;
- the transportation of rangeland goats through Blayney, Millthorpe and other towns/villages on the haul route; and
- potential to spread to commercial livestock operations adjacent to the haul route.

The Applicant's attention is drawn to the submission from the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and the Western NSW Local Health District (WNSWLHD). The WNSWLHD require a more detailed health risk assessment that quantifies the potential health risks to the Blayney community and communities along the haul routes.

A Revised Health Risk Assessment (HRA), prepared by a suitably qualified person is required. The HRA must quantitatively review the potential risk from Q-Fever to the Blayney community and other communities along the livestock transportation route.

### **Odour**

The submission from the EPA and numerous public submissions have identified concerns with odour. The Department requires the applicant to demonstrate that the potential odour impacts from the operation of the proposed abattoir do not detract unreasonably from the amenity of the township of Blayney and nearby sensitive receivers. Please refer to the submission from the EPA.

In this regard, revised odour modelling is required. The revised modelling must incorporate goat specific odour data, further information and clarification regarding estimation of odour from the holding pen, together with information demonstrating an understanding of the odour risk of the facility, including additional feasible odour mitigation measures that could be implemented should odour impacts occur during the operation of the abattoir.

### **Site location and suitability**

The site is located less than 1 km from the outskirts of the township of Blayney. Further, its location on the eastern side of Blayney necessitates the delivery of livestock via the main street of Blayney. The Department notes the proximity of the proposed abattoir to Blayney. Further, the Department notes that issues of odour, noise and the risk of Q-Fever (both at the abattoir and from the transport of goats through Blayney) are potential impacts associated with the proposed location of the abattoir.

The EIS does not adequately address the viability of alternative locations for the proposal. It is requested that the RtS include a detailed appraisal of alternative locations along the CVO pipeline corridor between Blayney and Cadia, on the western side of Blayney.

### **Truck haul route and residential amenity**

The movement of approximately 12 semitrailers and/or B-doubles along the haul route from the goat collection depots in north-western NSW and south-western Queensland to Blayney has the potential to impact on the amenity of towns and villages located on the haul route, particularly in relation to noise. However, the EIS does not map or identify the haul route.

It is requested that the haul route be mapped indicating the affected towns, villages and communities, and that the map be accompanied by a statement which identifies measures to mitigate any unreasonable impact on residential amenity. As a minimum, the statement should address the likely impacts on the amenity on the main street of the village of Millthorpe, having regard to its importance as a focal point for regionally based food and wine tourism. The potential for the transportation of goats through the main streets of other towns and villages on the haul route should also be addressed by the statement. Alternatively, the omission of the consideration of the potential impact on the amenity of other towns and villages on the haul route (i.e. other than Blayney and Millthorpe) should be justified.

**Road Traffic Noise Impact Assessment**

The Department notes that the Road Traffic Noise Impact Assessment (RTIA) which forms part of the Noise Impact Assessment (Appendix E) is restricted to Blayney and the arterial roads on either side (i.e. Church Street/Orange Road and the Midwestern Highway). It is considered that the scope of the RTIA should be extended to include the main street of Millthorpe given its importance as a focal point for regionally based food and wine tourism.

The main streets of other towns and villages on the haul route should also be included in the revised RTIA. Alternatively, the omission of towns and villages on the haul route, other than Blayney and Millthorpe, should be justified.

**Wastewater and water management**

Additional information relating to wastewater and water management is required, as identified in the submission from the Department of Primary Industries.