



Submitting Letters of Objection - Amended DA

Addressed and sent via post or email:

Wagga Wagga City Council, PO Box 20, WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2650
council@wagga.nsw.gov.au

Reference: DA23/0598 Eringoarrah Pty Ltd Livestock Processing Industry – Abattoir

Timing: Prior to 26/09/2024

Grounds for objecting - Most issues remain despite Amended DA

You could simply submit an updated objection and say something like, you've read the Amended DA and documents and the issues raised in your previous submission have not been adequately addressed and so remain of serious concern and are significant grounds for objecting

We encourage you to resubmit even if it's to say your previous reasons for objecting remain unaddressed - so council and councillors can see the level of community concern

Oura Riverine Protection has reviewed the Amended DA documentation and this is an updated list of key issues and impacts that you can include in your letters of objection. Please just write, in your own words, your grounds for objection (do not submit this document) because if Council think that letters are just copies of each other, those letters will only be counted as one objection

If you could advise Lynne Wallace lynne.wallace@bigpond.com you have submitted, that would be very helpful for us to keep track of the number of objections and lobby councillors

Environmentally inappropriate location

- close to the floodplain, lagoons and Murrumbidgee River
- on sloping land with irrigated soil between the site and the lagoons, increasing risk and impact of overland flow carrying salts and pollutants to the flood plain and River
- risk of contamination to River, water bores and Oura's recreation area
- with current PFAS contamination to Wagga's drinking water, drinking water safety should be the highest priority to the community

Poor design next to existing infrastructure increasing environmental risks

- next to an existing "drought" feedlot with 8% slope which, when in use, increases contamination risk, potentially mixing with contaminants from the abattoir
- effluent irrigation below the feedlot means any run off from feedlot in storm events will be over saturated land, increasing risk of water and contaminated surface flow to lagoons and river
- unevaluated dams north of site catch feedlot runoff, silage leach and overland flood water through the site, which overflows to the flood plain
- solar factory above abattoir site, increases run off risks through the site, as has been found at Bomen solar factories
- irrigation pivot below the effluent irrigation area covers the remaining land to the lagoon system, increasing the risk of run off and pollutants reaching the lagoon system and ultimately the River

Official environmental listings indicate the fragility of the area

- flood sensitive, groundwater vulnerable, groundwater dependant ecosystem, protected riparian land and a key fish habitat
- Australia is blessed with some of the healthiest rivers in the world and we should be undertaking sensible planning to keep it that way
- there are about 13 industrial type developments either operating, approved or proposed near the Murrumbidgee River between Wagga Wagga and Gundagai

Loss of amenity

- a highly valued rural landscape and the Oura Road is regarded by many as a tourist drive

- once \$11.5m is spent building an abattoir and solar factory on that site, that property will never be bought by a farmer again. Only future abattoir or feedlot operators could afford to pay for and use that infrastructure
- industrialisation will spoil the character of the rural landscape and will only expand with time
- there will be nighttime light pollution and daytime solar glare

Conflicting land use

- the proposed site conflicts with existing and approved developments of hospitality, farm stays and small lot subdivisions
- the Oura Beach is an existing tourist destination
- the Oura Road is used by many as a tourist drive and is naturally apart of Wagga's Tourism strategy, such as Visit Wagga Wagga "The Drive Way"

Other community issues

- increased traffic, from prior to 6am and after 6pm, damaging roads and decreasing road safety on a road also used as a regular cycle route and a tourist drive
- dangerous intersection at the entry to the proposed site from Oura Road where the road is too narrow to pass a turning vehicle from either direction and there is a blind spot for traffic traveling from Wantabadgery
- using unsealed roads on property to the proposed site will increase dust in the neighbourhood
- noxious odours are at most risk of flowing down valley via katabatic drift to the community of Oura, and no odour sensor has been placed in Oura (nor noise for that matter)
- noxious materials are planned to be transported offsite, which will put noxious odours on the road and have risk of spillage (again would be mitigated if at Bomen)
- increased fire risk to the whole area and community of Oura from either the site igniting an industrial/solar fire or contributing to an existing fire increasing burn time, intensity and risk of spread. This type of fire also puts volunteer fire fighters at greater risk (again would be mitigated if at Bomen)
- increased background noise from equipment and diesel generator (when operating) and combined with existing diesel river pump
- the proposal includes the slaughter of pigs and there is no advice in the EIS of where there would be a piggery or how the pigs would be handled, which is both an odour and contamination risk, as well as a health risk. NSW Health advice has been that people in this area are at risk of Japanese Encephalitis (a risk associated with piggeries), particularly at times of flooding (this site is close to the flood zone)

Inconsistencies in reports, consultation and media claims

- proponents claim they cannot use the alternative Bomen site, as they will not truck cattle 20km to there, for animal welfare reasons and also say they still plan to truck cattle to Eringoarrah from their other properties, including Scone 600km away
- Claim it's "small scale" or "boutique" abattoir and then quoted in the Daily Advertiser saying, "We have some very ambitious... goals", which highlights very real concerns of expansion

Better alternatives exist

- the proponents are billionaires, which affords them many options on and off their extremely large property (about 12km long)
- their proposal is for their own use and they are placing it 800m from the western boundary, close to the Oura Community and smaller landholding neighbours, who are then unfairly expected to bear the loss of amenity, environmental risks and future impacts
- they have an alternative site, with all similar characteristics and infrastructure, near the Eringoarrah main homestead that would be in sight, sound and smell of no-one but themselves and is only 9km further along the Oura Road
- or, the State Government and Wagga Wagga City Council have carefully planned and developed the Bomen Special Activation Precinct especially for this kind of development where all the risks are already mitigated by site wide planning (this would also decrease road and traffic issues for Oura and Council)
- alternatively, mobile processing would be much more environmentally and community considerate and, despite what they say, can process the numbers they claim are required for this development. This has been proven by provenir.com.au over a number of years
- these alternatives have not been fully, or seriously, considered in the EIS