

Application No: DA-404/2021

Address: LOT 6 DP245146 - 10 WOLSTENHOLME AVE, GREENDALE NSW 2745

Re: Development Application : *Regularisation of unauthorised existing earth and building works, use of the site as a cattle feedlot, and associated agricultural use and use as a landscape supplies business.*

I am writing to **object** to the above development application of the abovementioned description.

CATTLE FEEDLOT

This feedlot has been operating illegally for a number of years without council approval or any environmental controls in place. It does not comply with the Meat & Livestock Australia code of conduct and is unlikely to comply due to the issues outlined below. A number of concerns and complaints have been made to council by neighbours regarding the adverse impact this feedlot is having on the health of local residents, the environment, their properties and lifestyle.

Location

- The Feedlot is extremely close to and visible from two existing main roads, being Greendale Road and Wolstenholme Avenue. It is located on a small 25 acre corner block hobby farm that is not intended to support this type of intensive farming practice.
- It is situated on a steep gradient, where runoff containing effluent from a large number of livestock is contaminating neighbouring properties along the natural watercourse and eventually settling into the Nepean River.
- The Feedlot is in very close proximity to neighbouring houses, significantly impacting the health and lifestyles of neighbours and has changed the local flora and fauna due to an extensive loss of vegetation.
- The closest residential household is less than 100 meters from the feedlot, where 300 adult cows are kept. This address operates as a family day care centre for local children and is significantly impacting the running of the daycare centre as well as putting the children who attend this centre at risk of health issues outlined below
- It is in very close proximity to Bents basin state conservation area, a protected nature reserve which is only 3 kilometres in distance from the feedlot. The continuous operation of the feedlot is a threat to the future of the waterways and protected species that live in the reserve.
- There is no visual shielding from the feedlot as black patches of sludge that are overcrowded with cattle, is visually unappealing and off putting for both the neighbours and the thousands of individuals who pass by to visit the Bent's basin state conservation area.

Health Impacts

- It is well documented that dust from feedlots carry increased concentrations of E.coli bacteria. This poses a major health threat to all neighbouring properties as residents in Greendale collect rainwater as their main source of drinking water. Particulate and bacterial contamination of the water supply can have detrimental impacts on the health of residents within close proximity to the feedlot.

- Q Fever is also associated with this type of facility. As the feedlot is located on a steep gradient, the dust containing these contaminated particles are blown in all directions, especially in the windy months to nearby residential homes potentially causing this debilitating illness.

Environmental Impacts

- As the local area of the property has steep gradients, polluted runoff from the feedlot, cattle holding yards and other paddocks containing large numbers of cattle on the property overflows into neighbouring properties. This contamination of the watercourse has the ability to make stock and protected wildlife further down the watercourse seriously ill. The applicant has constructed a large holding dam without council approval to try and rectify this, however during heavy rain, the contaminated effluent has been seen to flow onto the road and enter the waterway.
- In addition to runoff polluting neighbouring properties and waterways, there has been a significant increase in the population of nuisance flies since the feedlot started. The lack of appropriate manure management and fly and insect control is the cause of increased breeding activity of nuisance flies.
- Residents are unable to go outdoors in the summer months as infestations of nuisance flies have plagued the area as a result of the feedlot being in such close proximity to their homes and the inadequate manure and effluent handling.
- Residents are unable to open any windows for ventilation as an offensive odour from the feedlot is airborne at all hours. The putrid stench is the first thing a visitor will notice at any neighbouring property within close vicinity of this feedlot. The stagnant water from the effluent holding dam also largely contributes to this offensive odour.
- There is excessive noise coming from the feedlot day and night from the populous amount of cattle, handling of stock, vehicle movements, and feed handling.

Welfare of animals:

- The welfare of the animals in the feedlot is of major concern. The large trees in the paddocks were removed and replaced with a small structure that provides very little shade to the large quantity of cattle in the feedlot. In the summer months cattle can be seen enduring heat stress due to this inadequate level of shade.
- The cattle do not look healthy as they are overcrowded and confined to a very small space. They have been seen drinking from contaminated water sources which could cause an outbreak of disease. These cattle are then further sold for human consumption.

UNAUTHORISED EARTH AND BUILDING WORKS

- Majority of the property has been subject to illegal excavation and dumping of landfill by the applicant. It can be seen over the years that many large trees have been knocked down, gullies have been filled and the natural water course has been altered. Dams have been constructed and extended prior to conducting any environmental impact studies.
- The dams are now situated very close to Wolstenholme avenue and have been seen to overflow, in turn contaminating the dams and waterways of neighbouring properties.

LANDSCAPE SUPPLIES BUSINESS

- The proposal for a landscape supply business is a front for a commercial truck depot that transports and stocks demolition material from job sites on to the property. The

vehicles are serviced and washed on the property, where runoff containing hazardous particles from these vehicles enter the watercourse. Upon vehicles entering and exiting the property, the contaminated particles from multiple job sites will pollute the air of surrounding properties and eventually settle into residential rainwater tanks, again causing health issues.

- A landscape supplies business usually has up to 2 small trucks for delivery. This applicant has over 20 heavy rigid vehicles with dog trailers and other earthmoving equipment. There are fuel trucks, water trucks and excavation machinery constantly entering and exiting the premises at all hours of the day including weekends. This is having significant impacts on neighbouring properties due to significant amounts of noise and pollution.
- The industrial sheds that were constructed on the premises are being used to service the demolition trucks and machinery rather than being used for landscaping supplies. Landscaping supplies usually transport and stock organic material, whereby this applicant is running a demolition-based business on a large scale where trucks and machinery have been exposed to contaminants and risk contaminating the local ecology
- Current landscape supplies are stored in the open and are not covered. On windy days, extreme amounts of contaminated dust is blown over to neighbouring properties, covering their roofs in dust which ultimately end up in rainwater tanks for human consumption.
- The applicant proposes to construct a driveway on Wolstenholme Avenue to service the feedlot and landscape supplies business. The property currently has 2 large driveways on Greendale Road which are able to service this need. The addition of a third driveway would not be feasible due to the steep terrain along Wolstenholme avenue and potential safety and noise issues. As the trucks would need to climb a steep incline when entering the property and decline when exiting, the excessive engine and braking noise will significantly affect neighbouring homes. The proposed driveway also passess very closely along the bank of the effluent holding dam, which is a safety concern as this dam constantly overflows during heavy rain.

I invite the local council to visit our properties to experience the uninhabitable environment we have been living in because of the illegal activities of the above applicant.

I thank the council for the opportunity to present my objection and believe the issues I have raised are sufficient for the council to reject the application and have the applicant immediately cease the operation of a feedlot, commercial truck depot and landscape supplies business.