

PP-2021-6050

We strongly object to the land Lot 1 DP1267277 Gonn Road, Barham being reclassified from community land to operational land.

Our objection is based on the grounds that there is a deferred commencement development application in waiting for this land. The development proposal will be activated on reclassification of the land. Why is a cereal processing plant being mentioned in the planning proposal also?

The development is a commercial abattoir which is projected to be a profit maximising business with plans for rapid domestic expansion and export. Council have applied for and received \$2.209m in state and federal grant money for this development.

There was no community consultation for this project. There were no other potential uses for the grant funds discussed with the community.

The project as it now stands will use considerable amounts of town water. Extensive use of town water by the abattoir during trading hours, will have a very negative effect on local domestic water supplies. Considering a large section of the funding for the project came from a drought relief grant, it appears use of town water for this project which negatively affects town water is contrary to that funding.

The busy facility will have a considerable effect on the area in terms of living amenity. The Councillor who sold the land to Council for the abattoir openly admitted in a public interview that it would reduce the value of the surrounding land. The last thing residents in this area need as we head into uncertain economic times with projections of inflation and interest rate hikes, is a reduction in our main asset, our home and land.

This is not a low impact proposal. The site is environmentally sensitive as it is in an area of interlinked wetlands affecting groundwater and hydrology. The development will impact surface water runoff, groundwater, underground streams to nearby Eagle and Barbers Creek, Pollack Swamp, the Little Murray River and Murray River. There is a likelihood of effect on critical habitat, endangered grass species, populations and ecological communities in close adjacent areas.

It appears that if the land is reclassified as operational it carries with it the automatic activation of the abattoir development. As such, agreement to reclassification of the land may be held as a defacto agreement of that project.

The reclassification of the land will involve the community in all the above expressed concerns and possibly more that remain unknown to us at this time due to council's lack of community consultation about this project.

We strongly object to the reclassification of the above described land from community use to operational use. It is our firm belief that the surrounding community would be best served by the land remaining classified as community land, thus retaining current community land values and the lifestyle that community members have invested in so strongly.

Yours Sincerely,

Russell and Anne-Maree Green

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