

Dear State Planning Commission,

I wish to make a submission on the Draft Planning and Design Code. My submission relates to the "Intensive Animal Husbandry and Dairies" General Development Policies which is applicable to Phase 3 areas (and also Phase 2).

I live in a Rural Zone on a beef cattle farming property. In approximately 2012 an outdoor rotational piggery commenced operations approximately 250 metres from my house. This piggery caused considerable and ongoing odour and dust impacts experienced in our house. Outdoor rotational piggeries allow pigs to roam in larger enclosures and the pigs are kept at a density where grain feeding (not grazing or foraging) is the primary feed source. In my experience, the odour caused by outdoor rotational piggeries is not so much caused by the storage of grain or the animals themselves, rather it is caused by the effluent. This is due to a diet with a high proportion of grain (compared to effluent produced by low-density grass grazing livestock). Even though outdoor rotational piggeries are not confined to a building they should be considered 'intensive animal husbandry'.

This activity did not have development approval and following compliance action by council, a development application for the piggery was lodged in 2015. As part of the assessment against the Development Plan the piggery was assessed against provisions requiring intensive animal keeping to be at least 500 metres from houses. Through the application process the piggery was relocated to approximately 500m from our house and subsequently approved by Council. Since this time the odour and dust impacts of the piggery have been significantly diminished and are now what can be reasonably expected for a Rural Zone.

I strongly submit to the Commission that the previous Development Plan provisions requiring intensive animal keeping activities like piggeries (including outdoor rotational types) to be required to be at least 500 metres from any houses not on the same property be retained in the Planning and Design Code. Based on my lived experience this requirement is critical to the amenity and wellbeing of neighbours. I am very concerned that the dwelling separation distances (and other policies) in the "Intensive Animal Husbandry and Dairies" module only apply to dairies and not other forms of intensive animal husbandry such as pigs, chickens, beef cattle and other livestock.

I also seek for all intensive animal husbandry applications to be publicly notified as part of the assessment process. The public notification of the application I described above demonstrates the usefulness of the public notification process in these types of applications.

Thank you for the consideration of my submission.

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