



PEOPLE FOR  
THE ETHICAL  
TREATMENT  
OF ANIMALS

**Australia**

PO Box 20308  
World Square  
Sydney NSW 2002

08 8556 5828  
PETA.org.au

Carl Manton, CEO  
Goondiwindi Regional Council

28 February 2024

Via e-mail: [mail@grc.qld.gov.au](mailto:mail@grc.qld.gov.au); [CManton@grc.qld.gov.au](mailto:CManton@grc.qld.gov.au)

**Re: Public notification regarding “Development Permit for ‘Rural Activities’ – ‘Intensive Animal Industry’ (Expansion of Piggery to 236,070 SPU, and Associated Infrastructure)”, application reference number 22/40**

Dear Mr Manton:

I’m writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) regarding the proposed expansion of a piggery at Calnbrook Road, Lundavra (application reference number 22/40).

Please see the attached submission outlining our concerns.

Thank you in advance for considering our objections. We look forward to hearing from you regarding this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Emily Rice  
Senior Communications Advisor to PETA Australia  
[EmilyRice@peta.org.au](mailto:EmilyRice@peta.org.au)

**Affiliates**

- PETA US
- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands
- PETA Foundation (UK)

**Submission in response to SP Northern Farming Operations application “Development Permit for ‘Rural Activities’ – ‘Intensive Animal Industry’ (Expansion of Piggery to 236,070 SPU, and Associated Infrastructure)”, application reference number 22/40**

The application for development of the facility in Lundavra, Goondiwindi, proposes to increase the licensed capacity of the existing piggery to a staggering 236,070 standard pig units (SPU), which would almost double the permitted capacity of the current facility (131,320 SPU). If approved, this would make it one of the largest piggeries in Australia, licensed to hold upwards of 190,000 pigs at any one time.

We object to this proposal for the following reasons:

- The facility would cause immense suffering to pigs, who would be denied everything that’s natural and important to them. Pigs are highly intelligent, playful, and loyal individuals – qualities that cannot be measured in “standard pig units” – but at this facility, they are continually impregnated, confined to crates, and separated from their young.
- The proposed development comes a mere 18 months after the approval of a previous application, extending the operation from 76,820 SPUs to 131,320. Thousands of locals opposed that expansion during the public consultation in 2021. It is still not possible to assess the impact of that considerable expansion, yet this proposal seeks to increase capacity further – by almost double.
- If approved, the facility would become one of Australia’s largest piggeries. According to the Agriculture and Resource Management Council of Australia and New Zealand, the minimum effluent produced by efficient intensive piggeries is about 100 litres per sow per day. Piggery effluent generally contains high levels of volatile (organic) solids, nutrients, and salts; strong disinfectants (via wash water); and veterinary chemicals, including growth promotants and antibiotics. Such waste generation results in the creation of greenhouse gases, including nitrous oxide and methane, and threatens local air quality via odours. The increased waste and proposed pond systems would also attract insects such as flies and mosquitoes. Mosquitoes are a key vector species in transmitting Japanese encephalitis from pigs to humans, a potentially fatal illness which infected 45 Australians between 2021 and 2023, and a total of seven people died.
- Expansion would result in an increase in pig mortalities, which in addition to the greater volume of manure produced, would exacerbate odour issues, attracting predators and affecting air quality. Given that there would be multiple open effluent ponds, pits containing rotting dead pigs and afterbirth, effluent irrigation, and manure spreading, the odour of the project would have a significant impact on local residents.
- The development is located just 4,600 metres from Lundavra State School, which, though not currently operational owing to non-enrolment, is still open for when the local community next requires it. Concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO) such as the piggery in question detrimentally impact air quality, and typical pollutants found in the air surrounding CAFOs include ammonia, hydrogen sulphide, methane, and particulate matter, all of which carry varying human health risks. A scientific review of four studies of asthma in children found increased reported asthma prevalence among children living or attending schools near an intensive farm. Therefore, such a development would endanger children using the school in future.
- Experts have warned that building factory farms such as that proposed significantly contributes to the risk of pandemic outbreaks. Swine flu is a serious threat to human health around the globe. In 2009, 44,403 Australians became infected with swine flu, and

it claimed almost 200 lives. Establishing more and bigger intensive piggeries increases the risk of the next swine flu outbreak originating in Australia.

- Pig farms are extremely water intensive. According to AgriFutures Australia, a minimum of 75 litres of water per day per sow is required for production. When viewed from a caloric standpoint, research group Water Footprint Network has found that it's more water efficient to obtain calories, protein, and fat through crop products than through animal-derived ones. Given that Goondiwindi has recorded long periods of drought, allowing any additional water-intensive animal agriculture there would be irresponsible.
- Given its potential for localised environmental pollution and the wider impact that intensive animal farming has on the environment, the application is not aligned with Goondiwindi Regional Council's mission statement to provide "locally responsive and informed decisions, delivering quality services and facilities to the communities of the Goondiwindi region".

Please consider the concerns for animal welfare as well as the negative environmental outcomes and impact on the health of locals outlined in this objection when making a decision on this application.