

Submission 134 – Anon 37

Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

Application - MP 10-0006 ABALONE FARM AT PINDIMAR

Proponent - Austasia Leefield Pty Ltd

Council Area - Great Lakes and Port Stephens

Approval Authority - Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

Date - 11 May 2014

Dear Minister

Please be advised that I have not donated money to a political party and object to my submission being made available to the proponent, interested public authorities, or on the website without my personal approval.

I object strongly to the above mentioned Development Application. This proposal should be refused on the following grounds.

Noise – application of the standard noise criteria in an environment where there is no ambient noise at night is not acceptable. Even ambient day time noise is very low. Pumps that operate 24 hours a day will generate noise that will affect local residents and local fauna even if they meet the EPA noise criteria. Such noise travels substantial distances at night. It will be heard across the other side of the Port.

Lighting – 24 hour illumination is unacceptable in a place where there are less than a handful of street lights and a spectacular night sky allows stars to be observed without the interference of terrestrial lighting. The proposal has not adequately addressed the impact of such lighting on local residents, users of the Port, residents on the other side of the Port and native fauna. Night lighting will affect nocturnal fauna species and micro-bat species.

Chemical and mechanical cleaning of the operation will be necessary. It is not possible to manage this process such that the residue and other debris built up inside the tanks, pipes and plumbing does not enter the Port.

Disposal of effluent - disposal of material from tanks etc has not been adequately dealt with. There is no centralised sewer system.

Port Stephens is an important fishery. This development proposal places this at risk.

Roads in Pindimar have not been built for heavy vehicles. The roads are unmarked, quiet and shared with pedestrians and cyclists. Placing industrial traffic on these quiet roads is unacceptable. Damage to these roads will affect all road users.

If the pipes need to be 500 metres long into Port Stephens to achieve adequate depth, a shallow estuarine environment with a foreshore that is eroding is clearly not suitable for this type of development.

Pindimar suffers regular and sometimes lengthy blackouts. This proposal will place substantial load on a power grid that is already clearly stressed. Residents and visitors should not have to tolerate more frequent brownouts or blackouts. Emergency backup power will be required to keep the proposed facility operating. Generators and appropriate switch gear will further exacerbate noise resulting in intolerable loss of amenity for residents and visitors.

The method by which the proponent proposes to prevent larger organisms entering the pipes, the effect this will have on suction and the way in which this will be cleaned and kept free of debris is not clear.

The opportunity cost of the ecological productivity of the by-catch that passes through the grid needs adequate assessment as does the disposal of the by-catch.

This proposal will have a high adverse economic, environmental and social impact on Port Stephens and adjoining lands. It will adversely impact those who rely on the Port to make a living, from tourism and fishing. It will also adversely impact on the residents and visitors. It is high risk and of dubious commercial benefit.

It is strongly recommended that this proposal be refused.

Yours Faithfully