

John Cordina

From:
Sent: Tuesday, 21 May 2013 4:57 PM
To: John Cordina
Cc:
Subject: Re: Draft Metropolitan Strategy For Sydney To 2013 - Submission

John

Thank you for your submission.

The Minister for Planning has extended the exhibition period for the Draft Metropolitan Strategy until 28 June 2013.

Please send us a copy of the Economic Evaluation Study of the Poultry Industry in the Sydney basin when it is available

Regards

David



www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sydney

Subscribe to the Department's e-news at www.planning.nsw.gov.au/enews
Please consider the environment before printing this email.

>>> John Cordina

29/04/2013 3:31 pm >>>

SUBMISSION TO : DRAFT METROPOLITAN STRATEGY FOR SYDNEY TO 2031

Dear Sir,

We have reviewed the Draft Metropolitan Strategy for Sydney to 2031 and wish to express our extreme disappointment with the superficial manner in which the Agricultural Sector has been addressed in the strategy .

The Poultry Industry based in the Sydney basin, have provided detailed submissions and these appear to have been totally ignored in the Draft Strategy. Furthermore, key issues which have been identified by various Government review groups, such as the Agricultural Reference Group, have also been largely ignored in the Draft Strategy. In short, planning for the Agricultural Sector for the next 20 years is TOTALLY INADEQUATE and given that Agricultural production has been in decline to such an extent over the last 10-15 years, DEMANDS THAT GOVERNMENT TAKE POSITIVE ACTION NOW to ensure agricultural activity is protected and its expansion capabilities are provided for into the future.

In relation to the current Draft Metropolitan Strategy Plan, we have attended a Government briefing meeting and it was made abundantly clear by Department Executives that critical to the success of the new Strategy was the need to incorporate detailed IMPLEMENTATION PLANS WITH DEFINED TARGETS, against which measurable results could be assessed. However, such information is simply absent in the strategy:

- There is NO RECOGNITION of the loss of agricultural production from the Sydney basin over the last 10 years or more ! Such information is critical in understanding the issues that need addressing in the plan. For example, the NSW Poultry Industry has lost over 10% in national market share in this period. Adding to this, in May, 2013 Inghams Enterprises will be closing its Hoxton Park processing facility with this production to be lost interstate. Several hundred jobs will be lost and farmers livelihoods put under threat. There is now only two processing groups remaining in the Sydney basin whose viability is coming under increasing pressure from lost chicken growing capacity and the impact of urban encroachment;
- There is NO PLAN to reverse the onerous impact of Environmental laws, viz. odour and noise which have had a devastating impact on agricultural operations, particularly with the expansion of urban areas. These policies largely designed for Industrial premises have had a detrimental impact on Agricultural enterprises;
- There is NO PLAN to facilitate a more cost effective, speedier and more effective development approval processes, currently handicapped by a myriad of obstacles, such as spurious objector complaints, Council (non)decision making, unreasonable delays and costly application processes. It is ironic, whilst, areas such as Griffith (with cooperative regulators) can facilitate the construction of 48 new sheds over the next 2 years (see attached ProTen press release), we have not been able to get a single new farm approval in over 10 years!
- There is NO PLAN to provide agricultural producers security of tenure, particularly from the impact of urban encroachment. For example, the imposition of operating curfews by various Councils are making farming operations increasingly unviable. Equally, the failure to have an EPA verification complaints policy, has led to onerous costs being imposed on both the agency and Industry;
- There is NO PLAN to replace agricultural production areas which are lost to urban encroachment. New agricultural areas should be provided with priority zonings, if required. Our company cannot replace lost farming capacity in the Sydney basin because of onerous planning/approval requirements and lack of suitable land – even though such sites could be made available;
- There is NO PLAN to consider Agricultural precincts and provide these production areas protection from Urban encroachment;
- There is NO PLAN to better utilize Government owned lands, particularly for intensive agriculture, even though suitable lands are available.
- There is NO PLAN to retain the remaining poultry processing capacity in the Sydney basin, so critical as a future fresh food production source for the NSW economy. Several thousand JOBS and well over 100 chicken farms would be lost in the Sydney basin if the current Sydney processors were lost to the Industry.

In short, we do not need any further reviews or studies – WE NEED ACTION ON THE ABOVE ISSUES!

Due to the seriousness of these issues, the Industry has commissioned an Economic Evaluation Study of the Poultry Industry in the Sydney basin, which we consider will be of significant value for the 2013 Metropolitan Strategy Review. This study will be completed by the end of June, 2013 and we seek an extension of time to enable us to submit this report to the Department for the purposes of the Review.

Yours faithfully,

John Cordina

On Behalf of

Cordina Chicken Farms P/L - Girraween

Summertime Chicken P/L - Galston

Red Lea Chicken P/L - Blacktown

Attachments : Original Submissions to the Review and ProTen press release

This message is intended for the addressee named and may contain confidential/privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, please delete it and notify the sender.

Views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, and are not necessarily the views of the Department.

You should scan any attached files for viruses.
