

## AGENDA ITEM 7.1 (D) ATTACHMENT

The Planning Officer  
George Town Council  
26/07/21

Dear sir/madam

Please find flow my response to and questions regarding planning application DA 2021/65 which is for polytunnels at 191 Hillwood Rd Hillwood.

I reside adjacent to this development and am a landowner in Hillwood

### 1. Management of Nutrient Effluent

I am shocked and dismayed there is no reference whatsoever to the planned management of nutrient effluent for the berry tunnels. It is well known that berry production requires an extremely high level use of pesticides, herbicide and fungicides. These poisons may drift to adjacent properties when sprayed and are present in high levels in the nutrient effluent. When this effluent runs off to adjacent properties and dams, including one I use for stock, there may be dire consequences.

I breed high value performance horses and have concerns about the effect on the developing foetus not to mention the health of all the horses, as well as myself and my family.

### 2. Traffic Management.

Where is the evidence of "no significant increase in (berry farm) traffic using Hillwood road? This is merely an assumption. Are the 60 employee going to go to the toilet and have morning and afternoon tea and lunch in the middle of a paddock. 60 x 10 pedestrian road crossings per day is more realistic, assuming only one toilet stop per day! Vehicle movements will be in addition to this

There are already approx. 5 illegal driveways onto Hillwood Rd for the Berry Farm polytunnel development on the opposite side, which submitted a plan for a single crossing . This is a pedestrian crossing and already the workers ignore it. I have already had one near miss where a worker walked straight out onto the road in front of my car

### 3. Visual pollution

The polluter should be responsible for mitigation of visual pollution. This would be easy by planting a hedge or rows trees along the road and fences of adjoining neighbours. Perhaps the Berry Farm could allocate some of the substantial grant money received from taxpayers to this

4. This plan does not mention hours of operation. Surely this is essential information to be provided to neighbours. Please advise me of this.

5. Lack of detail. This DA is surprising lacking in detail. A high intensity operation of this size owes it to the Hillwood community to be responsible to the community and the environment. It should

provide proper evidence based environmental studies and traffic studies. These are either completely missing or are estimates or opinions

I look forward to your response

Yours sincerely

## Tracey Baillie

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**From:** Reception on behalf of council  
**Sent:** Monday, 26 July 2021 4:24 PM  
**To:** Justin Simons; Tracey Baillie  
**Subject:** FW: DA 2021/65

Kind Regards,  
Chelsea Blyth  
Reception  
George Town Council  
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-----Original Message-----

From: :  
Sent: Monday, 26 July 2021 3:23 PM  
To: council <[council@georgetown.tas.gov.au](mailto:council@georgetown.tas.gov.au)>  
Subject: DA 2021/65

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Dear Sir/Madam

Please find below my comments with regards to the above development application:

Approval for dam deconstruction was given on 13 May 2021. The dam was deconstructed 1 1/2 months prior to approval.

The construction of tunnels on the proposed site had started many weeks before publication of the above DA 2021/65 application. By 16 June 2021, hundreds of tunnel steel posts were already erected. The DA was not published until mid July 2021 with the closing date of 26 July 2021.

The same pattern was observed with DA 2021/36 i.e. the proponent had started construction weeks before lodgement of the DA application and approval of such.

The above DA 2021/65 lacks detail. Firstly, the traffic assessment is characterised by assumptions and not scientific detail i.e. words such as indications are prevalent in section of traffic information. I would have expected a much more detailed assessment with a traffic counter, to validly understand vehicle movements.

The application has no information on pollution issues i.e. visual pollution, noise pollution, chemical pollution, soil management, water management etc. For instance, in the previous development under DA 2021/36, a soil and water

management control plan was provided. There is no mention of such in the above application ie where does the nutrient load end up, what chemicals are used, how heavy is effluent contamination with regards to pesticides or other chemicals used in the process, is there a monitoring plan for chemicals and nutrients in waste water? I developed my block of land years ago by reforestation and rehabilitation of a wetland. This includes a large dam. This wetland is very sensitive to nutrients and chemicals. I observed over the years re-establishment of flora and fauna including the golden bell frog. If nutrients, chemicals, fungicides, pesticides or other toxic substances from the above development contaminate the water flowing into my property and ultimately wetland system, there is substantial potential of serious damage to this ecosystem. In addition, without appropriate controls, there is risk of serious harm to stock. Council needs hard, scientific evidence to be confident that this will not occur.

As with any industrial type agro development, there is substantial visual pollution. This has already been raised in the Hillwood community. Mitigation of visual pollution should be done by the developer, not neighbouring property owners. For council to allow such a development to proceed without putting the onus of mitigation in the hands of the developer is morally and ethically unjust.

There are currently too many holes and gaps in the development application, and council should not allow the development to proceed until these gaps are filled and dealt with in a scientific and proper manner.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or clarification

Yours sincerely

Sent from my iPad