

In response to the presentations by community members to the LCCC meetings held on 21 May and 8 June, I make the following comments:

Several of the opponents to NBP made comments that they enjoyed clean country air before Narrogin Beef Producers came to town. This is patently false, as headlines and letters to the Editor in the Narrogin Observer were often of complaints of foul odours before we came, and after we came but before we built anything. Several examples of this are presented.

There were also various comments made about the value of properties decreasing since Narrogin Beef Producers was established. Real estate agents were telling people not to settle on the south side of Narrogin long before we came to town. The bitter complaining by this core group had convinced everyone prior to 2003 that living on the south side of town was undesirable.

In direct conflict with claims of reduced property values, there is significant evidence that all property values have increased since 2003, both in town and south of town. Attached are several pieces of data that support this statement. No evidence has ever been presented that values on Mokine Road have deteriorated since 2003. It is entirely probable that, had individual property owners actually put their places on the market, they likely would have been pleasantly surprised at how much they sold for. Many employees and management of the Great Southern Piggery, Narrogin Beef Producers, and Narrogin Hay would have been happy to have purchased land nearer to their place of employment. The simple fact is, none of the Mokine Road properties of the opponents who made submissions have been listed for sale since 2003.

The Agricultural College submission is most disturbing, as many staff and students have told us that there is not a problem, and that Mr. Wyatt has spent much time and effort trying to convince them that there is. Mr. Wyatt wants to have his cake and eat it too. On one hand, he says Narrogin Beef Producers is responsible for staff losses and decreasing enrolment. In other presentations, in attempting to secure millions of dollars of taxpayer money for expansion of the college, he says enrolment is so high that additional space is necessary to house students.

It has been stated by representatives of the Ag College that the employment and economic benefits generated by the Ag College are greater than that of the feedlot. While we fully recognize the societal benefits of education, and we have been very involved and interested in student development at Narrogin Ag College, the taxpayers of WA might be interested in the fact that we are a net generator of money for this state, as opposed to a recycler of other people's money.

Specifically in response to Mr. And Mrs. Shooter stating that their lives were wonderful before we came to town, as late as July 2007, Max and Brenda Shooter were good friends, and Brenda would often say, "Well, I must be in a sweet spot, because only very seldom do we get any odour at all." She said these words to me on several occasions, and in reference to both Great Southern Piggery and Narrogin Beef Producers.

The myth has been propagated that I stated at our original open public meeting in March 2002 that I made the statement that there would be no odour. In considering

any proposition in which animals are to be located in one area, it is ludicrous for anyone to state that there would be no odour. (And, I submit, for anyone to blindly believe such a statement.) I know places that have one horse, and there is odour to manage. Whatever statement that was made that night has been taken out of context, and now many people who were not even in attendance that night are repeating this myth. We spoke about manure smelling when it was wet, and for that reason, found it desirable to be located on the south side of town, when prevailing winds are away from town. We were always open about this, and are gravely disappointed in friends who have not come to us to discuss things, but instead worked actively behind our backs to wreak havoc in our lives, and to attempt to destroy our livelihood, the livelihoods of our employees and contractors, and our life savings.

We have always been open about what we do, and, while many odours attributed to our feedlot are not sourced from Narrogin Beef Producers, we have always endeavoured to minimise any emissions that DO emanate from our business.

Regarding purported health issues as a result of our feedlot, I refer to the Queensland Country Life publication which printed an article stating that people exposed to manure live longer and healthier lives than average because of inhaling the odour. There is, in fact, much anecdotal evidence of people in the United States living long lives, having worked onsite at feedlots for many, many years.

As for division within our community, this is certainly not something that we have encouraged, and for many years we even refused to name who was causing us problems. We are very sorry for the sadness and misery that exists in many of our opponents' homes. Despite all the attacks against us, and despite living onsite between the feedlot and Great Southern Piggery, we live happy and full lives, and never seem to have trouble having visitors into our home. I find it amusing that I've been accused of conducting an unprecedented public relations campaign. This is simply my life, and I sincerely hope that our opponents can discover the secret to happiness regardless of what happens with our business.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me a response time. I'm more than happy to entertain any questions or to further clarify any points just made.

Janet Thompson