

# Anger over new abattoir

By CONOR BYRNE

SOME rural residents are outraged with the prospect of an abattoir in Livingstone Valley.

The abattoir would be built between Blyth Rd and Stuart Hwy, about 37km southeast of Darwin, and would take 1000 cattle a day at full tilt.

The Australian Agricultural Company facility would slaughter older and overweight cattle for the export market to the US, Asia and Europe.

But several residents said they wouldn't have bought property in the area if they knew about the planned abattoir because it would devalue their home.

Applicant June D'Rozario fronted about 25 residents and interested parties at a heated Development Consent Authority meeting in Howard Springs on

Friday and said values would not decrease. But residents were sceptical. Peter Thorpe, of Scrutton Rd, is worried about the abattoir spreading waste water on the land and the open storage of tailings water.

Ms D'Rozario said a catchment would intercept any irrigation and there would be high environmental standards — and that the waste water would be good for the land.

"All the substances are being removed (from the water) so what you've got left at the end is nutrients," she said. She refused to answer what would happen if the dam wall cracked.

Mr Thorpe was also concerned about vermin, rodents, pigs and snakes attracted by a meat smell.

Ms D'Rozario said the rendering plant would be ducted to remove smells.



## Berry Springs seems to be getting closed all the time because of E.coli

"You will not be able to walk across this site; there will be a rapid response to extremist creatures," she said.

Lakes Resort Caravan Park owner Doug Barden raised the possibility of effluent getting into Berry Springs Nature Park — about 7km away.

"If the operators say they can contain the effluent, very good. But Berry Springs seems to be getting closed all the time because of E.coli," he said.

Ms D'Rozario said the water used would not be bore water and there would be "extensive discussions" with the Natural Resources Department about conserving wetlands and creeks.

TS Lee, of Blyth Rd, would be a direct neighbour of the abattoir. His issues are:

MOSQUITOES attracted because of treatment ponds and displaced due to sealed land. LIGHT and noise pollution from the 24/7 operation.

DIRTY effluent from cattle.

He called for a statutory authority "with lots of teeth to punish" the abattoir if they slip up. He said the combination of buildings and treatment ponds would attract mosquitoes.

Ms D'Rozario said the sealing of the land would prevent dust — which many people complained about in submissions.

She said the Livingstone site was chosen because it was the best site environmentally.

"People should forget their past experiences of how an abattoir works," she said.

She said "extensive consultation" had taken place with residents and there would be no run-off or overflow from the tailings dam and the soil would be instrument-measured.

"The presence of animals is not an unknown condition with

this area — it's part and parcel of living here and local residents are quite accepting of this," she said.

"People in the rural area are really quite used to these things and they don't complain about them. These fears that people have are not going to be realised."

She said the intention was to employ local people and indigenous people full-time.

She said the staged building was "nothing sinister".

"This is not the thin edge of the wedge," she said.

The concerns of interested parties have been given to Lands and Planning Minister Gerry McCarthy and a decision date is not known.

The build is expected to create about 230 jobs and the abattoir would employ 270 people.



English terrier Black Jack needs a ride to Adelaide to be with his best mate's children — can you help?

## Family plea for festive favour

By CONOR BYRNE

THE children of a man who died in a crash are trying to get his best friend flown to Adelaide for Christmas.

Michael Slatinsek, 48, died in a single-car accident on Cox Peninsula Rd early on Monday, October 3.

But his four-year-old pure-bred English terrier

Black Jack — or BJ — is still at mate Peter "Duck" Callis's house where Mr Slatinsek was staying.

His children, twins Isaac and Samuel, 10, and Josh, 9, in Grange, SA, promised after the accident that they would look after BJ — but the transit is prohibitively expensive for the family after paying for a funeral.

Widow Diana Cannella, 44, said a flight for the dog alone was \$1185 — but if BJ flew with a passenger it was only \$210.

So the family is searching for a good samaritan travelling from Darwin to Adelaide to bring BJ with them — and they will cover costs and pick up the dog from Adelaide airport.

"This is the last bit of business we need to take care of for him," Ms Cannella said.

"If someone is flying back they might just consider it. It's something the boys are often asking about."

**Can you help?**  
Email Ms Cannella on [Cannella67@gmail.com](mailto:Cannella67@gmail.com)

## No prize

THE Darwin school that won \$100,000 for improving attendance unfortunately did not win a national prize.

Millner Primary School took the NT title of the NAB Schools First for its truancy-beating efforts, but narrowly missed a \$500,000 prize at national level. Schools can again apply for the program in 2012.

## Cyclone emergency drill

THERE was a cyclone in Darwin City Council last week as employees were drilled on their emergency communication systems.

Lord Mayor Graeme Sawyer said the communication system worked "extremely well" when Cyclone Carlos swept through in February.

## Cabbies face English test

TAXI drivers will have to pass an English test before they can get their licence to work in Darwin from early next year.

Charles Darwin University will set the tests.

The NT Taxi Council supports the introduction of the new standard, which is part of a national program to ensure and maintain standards.

## Chapel open

THE new crematorium and chapel at Thorak Regional Cemetery will be open to the public on Saturday.

Families can leave gifts and messages at the cemetery Christmas tree.

The open day will be between 10am and 2pm.

## 'Perfect fit' from transport merger

NATIONAL freight and logistics company Northline and Darwin-based carrier QAL Transport will merge on December 1.

About 40 QAL Transport employees will join Northline. Current freight rates are expected to remain unchanged.

Northline is a privately owned transport and

warehousing specialist that has operated in the NT for nearly 30 years.

The logistics company employs more than 400 people and provides freight, warehousing, international freight services and undertakes special projects throughout Australia.

QAL Transport, set up in 1998 by Ken Conlon,

provides services to 30 indigenous communities across the Top End and has contracts with clients including Independent Grocers of Darwin and Coca-Cola Amatil.

Northline owner David Harford and QAL Transport managing director Mr Conlon said the two businesses were "a perfect fit" for each other.

## Leaving your best friends?

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