

Appendix 6

EIA Walkers Fruit Farms Chicken Farm

Summary of Public Meeting held at the Walkerville Show Grounds 14th February

- Meeting started promptly at 19H00
- After formalities and introductions, floor was handed to Moses (EnviroKey Management Services)
- Presentation given as per scope of the project.
- Noted the following:
 - Total 5 year plan to max 360 000 per 6 weeks cycle.
 - First phase 120 000 per 6 weeks cycle.
 - NO abattoir facilities on site.
 - Water license usage applied for
 - Farm will be fully automated.
 - Labor to be sourced from Walkers Fruit Farms (app 30 Employees)
 - All relevant Local and Provincial regulations will be complied with.
 - Cost per fully automated Chicken coop = app R 3 000 000 each.
- Questions and Concerns from the floor.
 - Smell (The fully automated system, daily cleaning and removal of manure will diminish odors. Consultants to come back with actual data from similar facilities)
 - Road traffic impact. (Chickens brought in week 1, removed week 6, Feed week 1, between small vehicles to remove manure and dead chickens. Consultants will give an actual breakdown of expected traffic. Also no on site selling of chickens. All vehicles will use Boundary Road, Walker Road then Meyerton Road.)
 - Impact on Proposed closing of the Walkers Fruit Farms Area. (Need to align access to Chicken Farm with proposal)
 - Security. (They will use our default security supplier (D&D Tactical), 24 hours on site security, electric fencing, and access control) (Employing local labor will give our unemployed jobs, thus less likely to commit crime to survive)
 - Power. (Will have stand by generator, Eskom will upgrade electrical system to the area (Hopefully solve our electrical outage problems))
- Meeting ended 21H00, with a follow up meeting to be arranged in app 2 weeks time, if possible in Walkers Fruit Farms.
- All written inputs and concerns to be submitted before 5 March, to be included in the proposal to GDART

All documentation to the proposal is on the www.midvaal.info website. (EIA tab in the left column, Then Chicken Farm Walkers Fruit Farms Foothill Road tab.

Thanks

Cllr Rob Jones

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Hi Rob

I really cannot see how the Council can allow this!!!

We have enough problems with the chicken farm on Haven road, the excess traffic to and from Harvestfresh's packing facility (whose trucks are getting larger than 5 tons!), the pig farm on Foothill road (which is still illegal and nothing is being done to stop it).

Intensive farming should not be allowed on small holdings –what about those who moved here for peace and tranquillity? The smells, pollution, flies, traffic and noise from these farms are offensive and many have been forced to move because of this .

All except one of the above mentioned live outside the area, so they actually have no concern what impact it has on the residents! Also probably don't care because finance is the main objective.

The comments in brackets to me are absurd!

" Eskom will upgrade electrical system to the area "(Hopefully solve our electrical outage problems))' – Do you really believe in this?

"(Employing local labour will give our unemployed jobs, thus less likely to commit crime to survive)' – Most of the crime is committed from people that come in from other areas – petty crime perhaps from locals. Most people in the area tend to employ foreigners or people from outside WFF. So we probably will have an influx of people.

(All vehicles will use Boundary Road, Walker Road then Meyerton Road) – The vehicles will not stick to their allotted routes - they will find the shortest and fastest routes – which in turn will impact greatly on our narrow roads and make them more dangerous as everyone speeds!

I know the process has to go through a full EIA – but we all know for a fact that the Council still allows these intensive farming practices to operate long before the EIA is complete and regardless of the complaints from the community!

Forgive me if I am wrong , but from the tone and comments in your summary – it sounds as if you are in support of this Chicken Farm?

Regards
Louise

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