

Darcy Laycock & Emily Parry - [REDACTED]

Jan 10th, 2022

Kerryn Ellis  
CEO  
South Gippsland Shire Council  
9 Smith St  
Leongatha, VIC 3953



To whom it may concern,

I write to register a submission with regards to the proposed road discontinuance at Gardners Lane, Poowong.

My fiancé and I are home owners and rates payers residing within Poowong, and regular, repeat customers of the businesses located further up from the abattoir (the "adjoining landowner" mentioned within the public notice).

From my understanding, the proposal (in more detail than published in the paper) is to sell the sealed road to the abattoir, for their exclusive use (a change I welcome) and build a new, unsealed / dirt road for the residents and businesses located further up Gardner road, the part of the change which I have concern about.

We drive a small, hatchback car (which is low to the ground, and feels potholes in the road - having received damage from poorly maintained roads in the shire elsewhere, previously) - and regularly travel with and without our pets to visit the businesses and use their services (Namely, the pet grooming at Gippsland Paws and More).

Now, in support of the sale - We've had several occasions where the parking of large trucks on the the sealed road next to and near the abattoir have caused issues - namely in making it challenging to pass at times, and with them using the road freely for loading / unloading. In this context. Likewise, as they employ a significant number of people and more importantly see significant numbers of heavy loads, They also contribute significantly to the wear of the sealed road here - hence selling to them I believe is in the councils best interest, as it means they'll be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep, and more importantly they'll be less likely to cause issues for passing traffic when attending to the other businesses further up Gardner Lane.

Now, the portion I do see issue with and strongly wish the council to carefully consider - is the intention to replace with an unsealed / dirt road, running parallel to where the current road is. We're but one of a large number of businesses using the road, and as mentioned it's often not just us - it's also our pets - and likewise we're attending in a smaller car as the services provided by said businesses further up are applicable to a wide range of people, not just those in larger cars. We believe the replacement of the said road with a dirt road (in lieu of the current sealed road) would be a significant detriment to our ability to visit, but also to those of other customers (which, a quick search of local discussion boards in and around Poowong, reveals a number of customers - and a growing reputation for excellence) - as a dirt road would make it less accessible.

I realise this may sound silly - given the private landowners for Gardner Lane already use an unsealed road past the point of the split - but they bear the cost, and effort of maintaining said

road - and when we've visited in all sorts of weather (be it after strong storms, heavy rain and other) - the road has been kept in excellent condition due to no short effort - and without increased cost to the council.

By replacing the longer stretch of road from Ranceby Rd upwards to the businesses with an unsealed road, the council would not only take on the burden of maintenance of an unsealed road (which, whilst likely cheaper on a short term for the council to engineer and build, over time would require more regular maintenance) but also the cost and risk of issues arising from said road due to pot holes and other damage to the road from storms.

We all know, observationally, how crazy the weather has been - and it's no secret that despite the councils best efforts, there are lots of roads in the area that are challenging to repair, and are often unseen / unheard, until a hapless council resident hits the pothole, causing damage to their car or themselves. Replacing a sealed road with an unsealed road in this location is a huge concern because I'd be worried it would add more dirt roads for the council to maintain and like wise add significant risk of degradation to the customers of said businesses and their furry friends, as they travel on said roads. Unless the council can guarantee to response to and resolve any issue on the road within hours of reporting, I believe the a sealed road would be a much wiser choice in the sense that it may receive damage from storms and similar, but it would hold of much better for longer, and would better deal with the amount of traffic using said road to reach the businesses in question.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my submission, and I appreciate the decision here facing the council and it's appropriate decision makers. I just ask that they please consider the change - and what is both important to the residents and businesses of Poowong long term - not just the largest business at play here.

Thank you and kind regards,

Darcy Laycock & Emily Parry  
Home owners at [REDACTED]