

Public Work Committee

Youth Justice Facility:

Pontville is one of many little, picturesque villages left here in Tasmania. This development will destroy its beauty. It will decrease the property value for everyone around here, not to mention peoples wellbeing.

To build a Youth Justice Facility next to a Marihuana plantation, two gun clubs and a Whisky Distillery really makes no sense!

At least 3 days a week we have to endure the sound of gunshots around here. That can't be settling or comforting for them already troubled youths, not to forget the smell of the burning off of the Marihuana plantation. This smell is in fact so strong, that my vet told me, that he's been asked if this could show as a positive in a blood test in horses. Also a less than ideal situation for drug addicted and troubled youths.

We had some meetings with neighbours about this development and of course they are all concerned and it effects peoples mental health and wellbeing, like not being able to sleep properly at night and in some cases even have to take medication to treat their anxiety. That is NOT FAIR, that the council puts us into this situation with which we will have to live with for the rest of our lives, or have to sell our properties (with now huge property value loss, because of that development), or learn to live in fear. Even if nobody would ever break out of that facility, to live with that fear, that it could happen, is weighing very heavy on us and it's not right, that that's put on us. Me and my husband lived for nearly one year up North and it very regularly happened, that there were breakouts at Ashly Detention center and it happened only recently that some youths got out and stabbed a woman to get her car key. It scares us to live with knowing, this could happen to us.

I'm outside every night to check on my horses and bring them their last meal of the day. I will never feel save again and will have to live like that. What if someone breaks out? Our property is one of the closest to run and hide. We have many outbuildings, what if I stumble upon someone hiding there. They would want me not to tell anybody. In other words, it would be a desperate person and desperate people do dangerous things. Now we have to spend money for surveillance cameras, alarm systems and security locks.

Another thing that would personally effect us greatly is, that with all the traffic that's already there from the Marihuana plantation (which will become even a lot bigger in the future, which means even more traffic) and adding to that a huge amount more for the Youth Justice Facility (200 cars carpark), the existing road will need to be made broader, which means, a big chunk of our land would need to be sacrificed and lots of trees would need to be chopped down. Trees which stood there for hundreds of years and some are the habitat of the spotted pardalote and provides food for black cockatoos. It would also mean, that a significant part would be taken away from my horses

grazing area and our house would have no privacy from all the traffic driving straight past us.

I'm a country person and spend most of my days outside. I feel a connection to the land around me. I believe the land sends out its own energy, good or bad and that energy of our surroundings would change. There isn't a prison in the world where there aren't sad and ugly things happening and if you tell us, that it won't be the case in this prison, then you are lying to us. If this prison gets build, instead of seeing a heard of horses peacefully grazing, as it is the case now, I will have to look at this great, big, ugly prison every day for the rest of my life. Every day I will get reminded of the sad and ugly side of life, which will no doubt effect my mental health and talking about mental health, when we showed our 18 year old daughter the plan of the prison, she looked at it and burst out in tears.

Kind Regards

Sandy Nye

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