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Media Release

“Crazy” Wagga Council planning decision will cost local jobs and investment

The city’s largest employer, Teys Australia, has labelled recent support by the Wagga Wagga City Council for residential development next door to the meatworks and adjoining industries as “crazy, confusing and contrary to the interests of the region”.

The company has also revealed that if development applications succeed, Teys will likely scale back their future investment in the facility, potentially costing the region millions of dollars and future local jobs.

The City of Wagga Wagga has recently supported rezoning of Cartwrights Hill and approved two applications for residential lots in the area. There are applications for another 50 to 60 house lots pending.

However the company says all of the applications have been lodged by only three to four people and that the entire process is being rushed through with almost no consultation with local companies, all of which will be dramatically affected.

Teys General Manager Corporate Affairs Tom Maguire - in Wagga to meet with other local companies about the issue - said that it’s common sense to separate industrial areas and residential developments with appropriate buffer zones, noting that the Bomen Industrial Estate, which currently supports 1600 local jobs, is expanding.

“This area was set up for industry, now Council wants families to come and live with industry! What on earth are they thinking?”

Mr Maguire said the NSW Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) has stated on numerous occasions that residential zoning is incompatible with the area, and 20 years of Council commissioned modelling reports have recommended that no residential development proceed at Cartwrights Hill.

He also accused Council of failing to engage with local stakeholders and questioned why it would put the interests of three to four landowners over an entire region.

“We received the invitation to attend the first public meeting in May on the day after the meeting. We received the invitation for **today’s** meeting on **Tuesday** giving us one day to register. The EPA has not even been invited to attend despite having expertise in this matter.

“Even [today](#)’s meeting is a joke, with them allowing us three minutes to state our case. Three minutes to consider the future interests of an entire community!

“The consultant hired by Council made it clear to us that he wanted to make a compromise. But this should have nothing to do with compromise; it should be about what is best for Wagga’s future.”

Mr Maguire said he met with other local companies in the Bomen Estate [yesterday](#) and they were equally alarmed.

“This is an industrial area. Some companies need 24 hour access, others make noise all night. Who would want to live here and why would Council even entertain the idea?”

He said when families move in, they will want peace and quiet and companies will be forced to spend millions of dollars or move to conform to residential standards.

”Council needs to sit down with local companies and sort this out before it’s too late.”