Your Name: Windorah Resident
Your Email: [redacted]

Topic: Complaint

Message:

Dear Barcoo Shire Council,

Re. Development Application of 1 & 3 Virtue Street Windorah

I am writing to formally object to the proposed development of an additional fuel outlet in Windorah. The proposal is unnecessary and could have significant negative impacts on the town and its existing businesses. I apologise for the delay in providing this feedback; due to the recent flooding and associated work, I was unable to reply earlier.

Firstly, the development application contains multiple inaccuracies, including the false claim that there is "no fuel currently available in Windorah" and that the "closest retail fuel is a one-hour drive away." This is incorrect, as diesel fuel has always been available to the community through the Windorah Outback Shop, even during the closure of the Windorah Service Station. Further, the claim of disruption to cattle freight is also false, as remote cattle freight trucks carry thousands of litres of diesel in belly tanks, relying primarily on their own supply rather than commercial fuel outlets. If there is a need to fabricate such falsehoods to justify the application, it raises serious concerns about the credibility and legitimacy of the proposal.

With a population of just 50 people, Windorah already has two fuel outlets. The addition of a third outlet is unwarranted and could adversely affect the town's economic stability. The existing demand does not justify the need for another fuel station. The Windorah Service Station, the largest of the two fuel outlets, has been on the market for sale for the past two years with little interest. Adding another fuel outlet will further diminish the likelihood of selling this business, rendering it unsaleable and undermining the economic viability of existing enterprises.

While unleaded fuel has been unavailable in Windorah for some months, this has had little impact on the town, as most vehicles in the region run on diesel and it was well advertised in neigbouring towns for tourists and travelers inforamtion. Furthermore, the issue has now been resolved with the reopening of the Windorah Service Station, eliminating any justification for an additional fuel outlet.

Another significant concern is the issue of market monopoly. The applicant currently controls all businesses in Windorah except for one. Allowing this development would grant a single family a monopoly over essential services in town, which is detrimental to fair competition and the broader community.

Given these points, I strongly oppose the approval of this proposed development. It is not in the best interest of Windorah's economy, its existing businesses, or its residents. I urge the council to reject this application to protect the integrity and sustainability of our town.

Thank you for your time and consideration.