

ADC

3 February 2016

Mr Lester Townsend (Chair)
Animal Industries Advisory Committee
Via website

Dear Mr Townsend

Re: *Animal Industries Advisory Committee Discussion Paper*

The Shire of Campaspe welcomes the opportunity to make a submission in response to the Animal Industries Discussion Paper.

The request for submissions asks a number of specific questions, with Campaspe's response to some of these questions detailed below.

- 1. Provide stronger strategic guidance by undertaking regional agricultural land capability assessments and identifying appropriate areas for intensive agriculture in local planning policies.**

This policy direction is supported by the Shire of Campaspe.

The identification of opportunity areas for intensive agricultural at a state and/or regional level is considered a significant step. Identifying these areas within the SPPF in a manner similar to the Regional Settlement Framework (i.e. with appropriate infrastructure capacity to support investment, yet clear of significant impediments) would assist in providing a level of guidance currently not available.

The identification of these areas would enable local Councils (either individually or through regional partnerships) to establish local policies supporting investment in intensive agriculture. It is considered critical that policy is developed locally and not prescribed at a state or regional level to ensure that any policy requirements respond to the local environment.

- 2. Strengthen the purpose of the Farming Zone to promote agriculture activity as the priority activity and remove reference to encouraging dwellings as a means of promoting population growth.**

This policy direction is supported by the Shire of Campaspe.



Lifestyle & Opportunity

Cnr Hare & Heygarth Streets,
Echuca VIC 3564

PO Box 35 Echuca VIC 3564

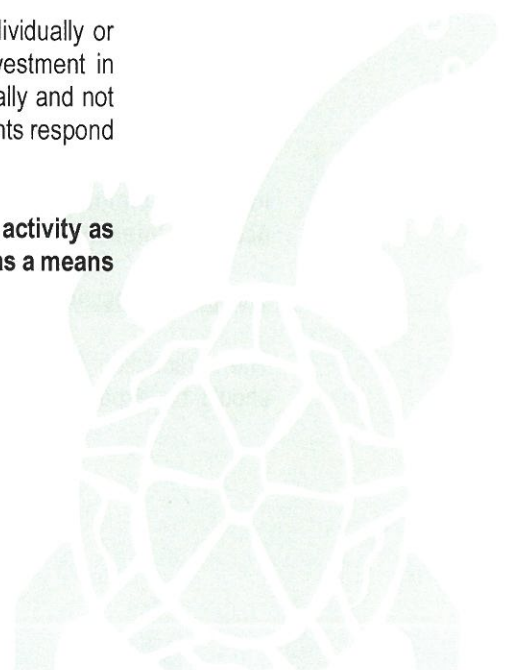
Tel: 1300 666 535
(03) 5481 2200

Fax: (03) 5481 2290

Email: shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au

www.campaspe.vic.gov.au

ABN 23 604 881 620



generally. As the Farming zone provides for 'industry' as a section 2 use the requirements of Clause 52.10 Uses with Adverse Amenity Potential, should be made applicable to applications within the Farming Zone.

4. Require a permit in the farming zones for new dwellings within the buffer distance of intensive animal operations.

This policy direction is supported in part by the Shire of Campaspe.

As outlined above the introduction of threshold distance through the use of Clause 52.10 is recommended. However it is considered that the introduction of a permit trigger for new dwellings within a specified buffer distance of an intensive animal operation places a significant onus on Council's to maintain an accurate and up to date register of all current and operating intensive animal industries within the municipality.

A preferred approach would be to specify setback distances from property boundaries for which no planning permit is required for a new dwelling. These setback distances should be equal to or greater than the minimum buffer distance generally acceptable to an intensive animal industry. Therefore should a dwelling be proposed two situations exist.

- a. No planning permit is required - the dwelling is located so that it is setback in compliance with the specified property boundary setback.
- b. A planning permit is required - the dwelling is unable to be located so that its setback meets the minimum property boundary setback therefore enabling an assessment of any potential impact on any surrounding agricultural uses including any intensive agricultural uses should they be present.

5. Base the generic definition of intensive animal husbandry on the impacts of the operation.

This policy direction is supported by the Shire of Campaspe.

In particular we support the comments of the 1997 VPP Advisory Committee as expressed in this discussion paper.

6. Base the requirement for a permit for animal industries on the potential environmental and amenity impacts of the operation derived from an assessment with an online tool.

This policy direction is not supported by the Shire of Campaspe.

We raise concern regarding the accuracy and ongoing management of an online assessment tool to determine if a permit is required. This concern is driven by the current online tools used to support the planning permit process. In particular those that support an assessment of Cultural Heritage and Native Vegetation Biodiversity.

7. Create specific land use terms for poultry farms (broiler, egg and hatcheries), cattle and sheep feedlots and piggeries and other clearly intensive uses, to

14. Develop and maintain a contemporary Codes of Practice for all intensively farmed livestock (as a minimum for poultry (broiler, egg and hatchery), piggeries, cattle feedlots, sheep feedlots, and feedlot dairies).

This policy direction is supported in part by the Shire of Campaspe.

Whilst Codes of Practice may provide more certainty and consistency in the assessment and approvals process. We are concerned that, if as at present that Codes of Practice are not maintained and reflective of emerging farming systems that they may impact negatively on potential investment and growth in the industry.

It is however considered that development and maintenance of performance standards which are not incorporated into Planning Schemes but provided as Advisory Notes may better assist in the consideration of applications.

15. Introduce a fast track process for applications that meet defined standards.

This policy direction is supported in part by the Shire of Campaspe.

16. Formally recognise participation in compliant industry assurance programs in the planning process. Some examples include APIQ, NFAS, Chicken Care and Egg Corp Assured.

This policy direction is supported in part by the Shire of Campaspe.

We recognise that these programs provide direct assistance and advice to program participants. In addition that these programs support industry compliance with standards and continuous improvement in operation. However we raise concern in associating the approval of such industries to membership and/or participation in the respective industry group. We consider that it is not the role of the planning system to support or facilitate membership or participation in these respective groups and may be considered similar to animal welfare issues.

We trust that this submission will aid the committee and would welcome an opportunity to expand upon any matter herein. Should you have any queries in relation to any of these matters please do not hesitate to contact Andrew Cowin, Strategic Planning Manager on 5481 2200 or by email on a.cowin@campaspe.vic.gov.au

Yours faithfully



**Cr. LEIGH WILSON
MAYOR**