Encl 6.1

13th March, 2015

Planning Department
Murrindindi Shire Council
PO Box 138
Alexandra Vic 3714

Planning Permit Application 2014/201

Further information regarding the application, response as follows:

1/ Fees
Accomodation fee $502 was paid by visa 26/11/14 (appendix A)
Place of Assembly fee $251 was paid by visa 13/3/15

2/ Written Support

A: Links to agriculture – the property spans approximately 20 acres and has many aspects to it. There is about 5 acres of natural bush with a walking trail going through it. There are also three lakes, one of which I have a permit from the Department of Economic development, Job, Transport and Resources (appendix B), to stock rainbow trout in. This will allow guests to either feed the fish or go fishing when the stocks grow to a mature size. There are many animals to admire, we have kangaroos, wombats, echidnas, rabbits, variety of birds, frogs, ducks and I'm sure more that I am yet to even see. Essentially it's a homestead located in a very natural environment that families can come and spend time at and feel that they are in the fresh countryside and away from the hustle of the city. There are bicycles available for guests, basketball ring, table tennis, soccer and footballs as well.

B: There are 6 rooms in the house, each with a queen bed. There are also two bathrooms and two toilets in the house. A total of 12 people to be accommodated for sleeping purposes.

C: The type of accommodation offered is essentially weekend overnight (fri-sun) but is also available during the week.

D: I have 4 letters of support from adjoining neighbors and a local business that are in favor of me operating this business and bringing extra people and economic benefit to the local community. (appendix C, D, E and F)

3/ Use of the property for Place of Assembly

A: Im not sure how often the request will arise to use the property for gatherings, however I don't see this type of use being every weekend. I would forecast that it will most likely be once a month and probably a little more during the festive seasons or long weekends.

B: I wouldn't like to see more than 120 people visiting the property at any one time. The requests that I have had so far have been anywhere from 30 - 80 people.

C: Most of the requests for family visiting have been for either lunches or bbq dinners and most have said that they would encourage their guests to leave by 10-11pm.

D: The type of gathering requests have been varied. Most have been for birthdays, anniversaries and the occasional informal backyard wedding.

E: There are no outdoor speakers installed at the house and in the terms and conditions that I have drafted for prospective guests, I have noted that disturbance to neighbours is prohibited. This would include live music outdoors.

4/ Site Plan (appendix G and H)

5/ Floor Plan of House (appendix I and J)

6/ There is 1 x sign at the driveway entrance on Healesville-Kinglake Rd. It measures 1200 x 650mm and it simply states the name of the property and the street number. "Paradiso Kinglake 3022" (appendix K)

7/ I have spoken to Andrew Arnold of the Country Fire Authority regarding bush fire safety and he has suggested to me that the current driveway should be sufficient as a form of exit. I did mention to him that there were several gates along the boundary of the property that could also be used as egress, however he replied by saying that if they only lead into a paddock, it could be more dangerous than just using the road.

8/ With help from Andrew at the CFA, I have put into place the following precautions for bush fire safety. The day before the guests are due to arrive, I will send them an email with the published Fire Danger Rating for the following four days. This email also has a link on it to the safety information for the Kinglake area. A copy is also printed in the guest information folder in the house. Andrew advised that I put the link so that if the CFA updates the information, it would stay current on my email. (appendix L). There is also a Bushfire and Emergency Plan that is attached to the email that will go out (appendix M). A copy is also printed in the guest information folder in the house.

Please advise if there is any further information you require,

Kind Regards

S. D'Ag

Sam D'Agostino.

Google

To see all the details that are visible on the screen, use the "Print" link next to the map.

Encl 6.1

Appendix G

2 x toilets Septic tank

1 x toilet Septic tank

Gazebo/Gatherings

Parking Gathering

Septic grey water distribution lines

Rear of House/Gatherings

Lawn next to lake/Gatherings

Parking/disabled Accomodation

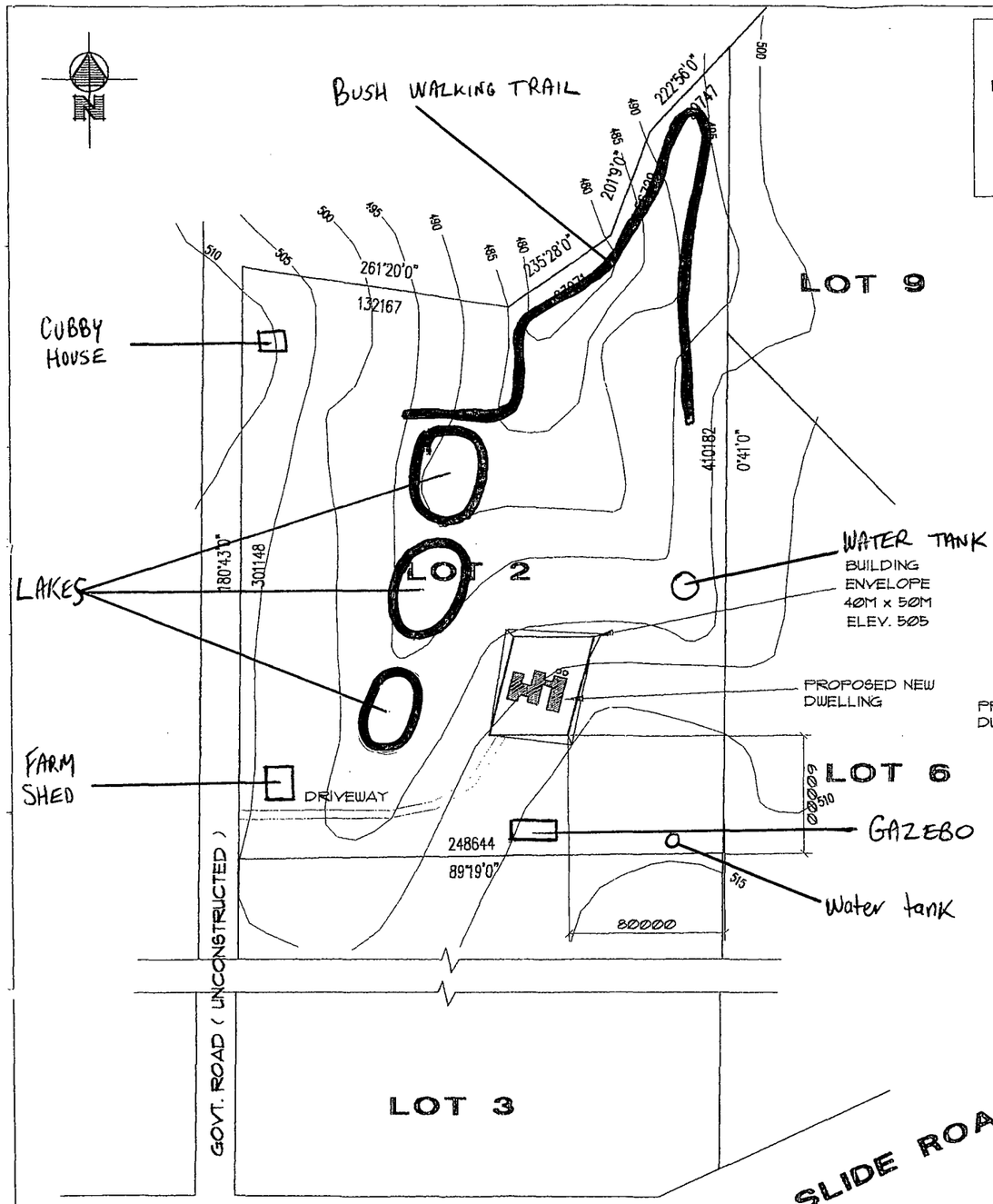
D15/3435

Encl 6.1

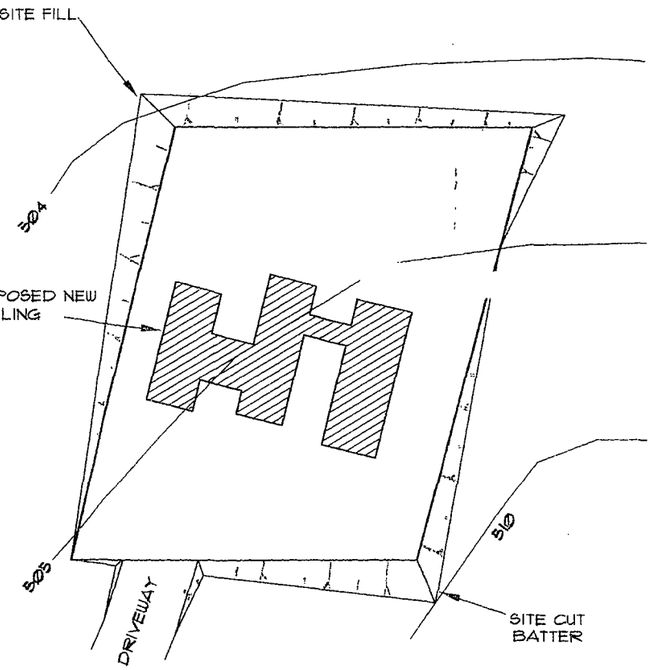
Appendix H

PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR AREA	=	208.20m²
PROPOSED FIRST FLOOR AREA	=	67.38m²
PROPOSED FRONT VERANDAH AREA	=	9.00m²
PROPOSED REAR VERANDAH AREA	=	9.00m²
PROPOSED GARAGE AREA	=	111.89m²
TOTAL BUILDING AREA	=	405.47m²
SITE COVERAGE = 0.52%		

LOT NUMBER: 2 Sec B
VOL. 4113
FOL. 822549
COUNTY: ANGLESEY
PARISH: KINGLAKE
AREA: 77,409 SQ. METRES



SITE PLAN
(1 : 2000)



ENLARGED PLAN
(1 : 500)

ALL DOWN PIPES TO BE COLORBOND - 100 x 75
DISCHARGE INTO 90mm DIA. UPVC. STORM WATER DRAIN AND TO LAWFUL POINT OF DISCHARGE - 2 No.STORAGE TANKS

GENERAL NOTES (BCA 96 AMDT 8)

- All materials and work practices shall comply with, but not limited to the Building Regulations 1994, and Building Code of Australia 1996 and all relevant Current Australian Standards (as amended) referred to therein.
- Safety glazing to be used in the following cases:-
  (I) All rooms - within 500mm vertical of floor level
  (II) Bathrooms - within 1500mm vertical from bath base
  - within 500mm horizontal from bath/shower to shower doors, shower screens and bath enclosures
  (III) Laundry - within 1200mm vertical from floor level and/or within 300mm vertical of trough
  (IV) Doorway -within 300mm horizontal from all doors
  (V) Ensuite - as for (II)
- Provide an impervious substrate and select surface finish to floors within 1500mm of an unenclosed shower and walls at 1800mm above floors and 150mm above bath, sinks, basins and trough splash backs and the like.
- Thermal insulation to be provided as follows:
  For Timberfloor construction with no perimeter base brickwork:
  R1.5 bulk insulation to external walls and R2.5 bulk insulation to roof
  For timber floor constructionwith, perimeter base brickwork:
  R1.3 D.S sisalation to external walls and R2.5 bulk insulation to roof
  For slab floor construction:
  R1.3 D.S sisalation to external walls and R2.5 bulk insulation to roof
  Note- Sisalation to have a flammability index not exceeding 5
- Step sizes other than for spiral stairs) to be:
  Risers (R) 190mm maximum and 115mm minimum
  Going (G) 355mm maximum, and 240mm minimum
  2R +G =700mm maximum and 550mm minimum
  125mm maximum gap to open treads
- All steps landings and the like to have non slip finish or suitable non-skid strip near edge of nosing.
- Provide balustrades where change in level exceeds 1000mm balustrades to be:-
  1000mm min clear above finished floor balconies, landings or the like, and
  865mm min. above stair nosing or ramp, and vertical with a 125mm maximum gap between
- Hand rails to be 855mm minimum above finished stair nosing and landings.
- Window sizes nominated am nominal only. Actual size may vary according to manufacture. Windows to be flashed all around.
- Where The building (excludes Class 10) is located in a termite prone area the area to underside of building and perimeter is to be treated against termite attack.
- Concrete stumps:
  up to 1400mm long to be 100mm x 100mm 1 No. H. D. Wire)
  1401mm to 1800mm long to be 100mm x 100mm (2 No. H.D. Wires)
  1801mm to 3000mm long to be 125mm x 125mm (2 No. H.D. Wires)
  100mm x 100mm stumps exceeding 1200mm above ground level to be braced where no perimeter base brickwork provided.
- For buildings in marine or other exposure environments shall have masonry units, mortar and all built in components and the like complying with the durability requirements of Table 5.1 of AS3700-1998 Masonry Structures.
- All stormwater to he taken to the legal point of discharge to the Relevant Authorities approval.
- These drawings shall be read in conjunction with all relevant structural and all other consultants drawings/details and with any other written instructions issued in the course of the contract.
- Site plan measurements in metres - all other measurements in millimeters o.n.o.
- Figured dimensions take precedence over scaled dimensions.
- The Builder shall take all steps necessary to ensure the stability and general water tightness of all new and/or existing structures during all works.
- The Builder and Subcontractors shall check and verify all dimensions, setbacks, levels and specifications and all other relevant documentation prior to the commencement of any works. Report all discrepancies to this office for clarification.
- Installation of all services shall comply with the respective supply authority requirements.
- The Builder and Subcontractor shall ensure that all stormwater drains, sewer pipes and the like are located at a sufficient distance from any buildings footing and/or slab edge beams so as to prevent general moisture penetration, dampness, weakening and undermining of any building and its footing system.
- These plans have been prepared for the exclusive use by the Client of Epping Drafting Services Pty Ltd for the purpose expressly notified to the Designer. Any other person who uses or relies on these plans without the Designer's written consent does so at their own risk and no responsibility is accepted by the Designer for such use and/or reliance.
- The approval by this office of a substitute material, work practice, variation or the like is not an orthorisation for its use or a contract variation. Any said variations must be accepted by all parties to the agreement where applicable the relevant Building Surveyor prior to implementing the said variation.

SITE CLASSIFICATION

Site classification as Class:- ' M '
Refer to soil report No.:- MOU11649
By:- SOILTECH INVESTIGATIONS PTY.LTD.

STORMWATER

90mm DIA. Class 6 UPVC stormwater line laid to a minimum grade of 1:100 and connected to the legal point of stormwater discharge. Provide inspection openings at 9000mm C/C and at each change of direction.
The cover to underground stormwater drains shall be not less than
- 100mm under soil
- 50mm under paved or concrete areas
- 100mm under unreinforced concrete or paved driveways
- 75mm under reinforced concrete driveways

Refer to the stormwater management in the rural residential areas, as required by the Relavant Shire.

DESIGN GUST WIND SPEED / WIND CLASSIFICATION

Building tie-downs to be provided in accordance with AS 1684-1999 for an assumed design gust wind speed / wind classification of ( ) (subject to confirmation on site by Relevant Building Surveyor at first inspection) refer to AS1684 for construction requirements.

AUTHORITIES / CONSULTANTS

Municipality	MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL	Ph. (03) 5772 0333
Sewerage Authority	MURRINDINDI SHIRE COUNCIL	Ph. (03) 5772 0333
Relevant Building Surveyor	NORTHERN BUILDING SURVEYING	Ph. (03) 5429 1147
Consulting Structural Engineer	T.M.C. & ASSOCIATES	Ph. (03) 9436 1567
Geotechnical Engineer	SOILTECH INVESTIGATIONS P/L	Ph. (03) 9737 0842

Date	Rev	Description
APR 03	A	ISSUED FOR BUILDING APPROVAL

1:2000 SCALE IN MILLIMETRES
1:500 SCALE IN MILLIMETRES

Client Name:

Project:

AT LOT 2 HEALESVILLE KINGLAKE ROAD KINGLAKE

Map No.

Date: APR 03
Scale: 1:2000 & 1:500
Drn: MMOWAT DP-AD2573
Sheet 1 of 5
Client Approved:
Permit Issued:
Permit Number:
Checked:

Member Building Designers Association of Victoria Inc.

Job Number 2781
Drawing Number 20313-A1
Rev A

Encl 6.2a

BLACKMORE HOLDINGS PTY. LTD.
ABN 30 984 533 701 Since 1979
P.O. Box 117, Alexandra, Vic 3714
Ph. 61 3 5772 2871
Email. david@blackmorewagyu.com
Web. www.blackmorewagyu.com

6th October 2014

Ms Tamara Johnson
General Manager Infrastructure & Development
Murrindindi Shire Council
Perkins Street
Alexandra, VIC 3714

RE: 260 Halls Road, Alexandra

Dear Ms Johnson

Please find additional information that you have requested to accompany our planning permit application.

1. Attached is a site plan showing location of all aspects, including enclosed areas, feeding points, buildings including use of each building, access tracks, watering points. There are no permanent livestock enclosures.

2. The farming activity - The site plan shows 69 paddocks with a stocking rate of 1 animal per 930 square meters.

3. (a) Paddock management - We have trialled a new pasture mix which includes forage herbs and grasses used in heavy traffic areas on race courses. We have successfully renovated 30 paddocks to-date with excellent results and hopefully we will complete the last 14 paddocks by the end of next Autumn 2015. The remainder of the paddocks are irrigated paddocks that are sown to irrigation pasture. From the time of this report we have all 69 paddocks available on a rotational stocking program which allows us to move cattle from paddocks that are showing signs of pugging. Dust from the paddocks has never been a problem but the whole property can be irrigated if a problem occurs in the future.

   (b) We have had soil tests taken on the property and these will be reviewed on a 3 yearly basis to monitor nutrient build up (if any). There are no requirements to do this in Australia or can we find any regulations that must be adhered to. Tests will be undertaken by a NATA accredited laboratory resulting in Australian best practice.

   (c) We have been in consultation with the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority since January 2006 resulting in the Goulburn River and the majority of lagoons being fenced off and planted with natural vegetation. This is the best practice for River and waterways management.

   Prior to the Murrindindi Shires request for a planning permit, water testing has not been monitored as we received a positive inspection from the EPA that did not require any further action to be taken. We are now in the process of engaging a NATA approved laboratory to undertake the testing of environmental waters on our farm and the Goulburn River. These tests will be reviewed on a 3 yearly basis to monitor any changes.

4. Feed storage and vermin control
   Please see in the confidential report that accompanies this letter, the photos of our commodity shed and feeding method. Baits are used to control vermin around the commodity storage areas.

5. Animal Biosecurity and Emergency Animal Disease Plan
   Blackmore Holdings keeps a full record of every individual animal in a purpose built database and records the five domains of essential needs of farm animals;

   a) Freedom from thirst , hunger or malnutrition
   b) Freedom from discomfort – with appropriate comfort and shelter
   c) Freedom from pain , injury or disease
   d) Freedom to express normal behaviours
   e) Freedom from fear and distress

6. Farm Biosecurity
   Farm biosecurity is a very important part of the business. The following information is kept on file;

   a) Visitor Register – Name , Company & Phone Number
   b) Stock Receival & Inspection Form – Date In, Delivery Mob , Number Head In
   c) Animal Health Assessment Form – NLIS / Breed/ Sex / Condition
   d) Emergency Disease Action Plan – see attached

7. Dead Stock Management
   From time to time animals get sick and need to be put down or die. The animal is disposed of through the Seymour knackery truck. On the odd occasion this truck is unavailable and the animal is buried on farm (covered with dirt and limestone).

8. Truck Movements

Below are the feed deliveries for the period July 2012 – June 2014, showing tonnage and frequency.

2012-2014 Farm Deliveries

Month	Truck Loads	Tonnage
Jul-12	4	97.54
Aug-12	9	205.49
Sep-12	12	279.18
Oct-12	12	338.77
Nov-12	16	403.78
Dec-12	18	389.19
Jan-13	21	535.33
Feb-13	16	408.55
Mar-13	10	283.34
Apr-13	15	418.29
May-13	15	342.23
Jun-13	15	400.15
Jul-13	15	408.68
Aug-13	17	466.33
Sep-13	12	316.31
Oct-13	13	370.47
Nov-13	10	285.15
Dec-13	12	323.89
Jan-14	16	356.71
Feb-14	10	273.48
Mar-14	16	421.67
Apr-14	15	360.35
May-14	15	382.20
Jun-14	13	374.39
Per month average	**13.63**	**351.73**
Load Average	25.81	Mt

35% is B-Double Trucks / 65% is Semi Trucks

9. Set Backs from Waterways

Please see our farm plan which shows lagoons and the entire length of the Goulburn River fenced and planted with native vegetation done with the advice and assistance from the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority. There is no run off from our farm that enters the Goulburn River.

10. Set Backs From Neighbouring Dwellings

We have a neighbour whose property is situated in the middle of our farm, see sight plan number 8. We have planted plantations on our land around the majority of the boundary of this neighbours property. We have planted 2 hectares (4.94acres of now un-usable land) of native vegetation between our commodity area and their dwelling. We have diverted vehicles from the track that goes past the living side of their dwelling. At our own cost, we have also set up a watering system on tracks that go behind their dwelling and down a small portion of the other side to alleviate dust.

11. We are not aware of any potential offsite amenity impacts.

Encl 6.2a

Google earth

feet
km
1

≡ fenced lagoon areas.
^ fenced revegetation areas.
—— made gravelled roads
- - - - cattle lanes only
o water troughs.
▬ permanent feed bunks and pads.

1. Homestead
2. Cattle yards & hayshed
3. Work shop, chemical shed, office
4. Commodity shed, silo, hayshed, Implement shed, 2nd hayshed
5. Silage storage.
6. Hayshed
7. Cattle yards.
8. Neighbours property.
9. River pump (electric)
10. Lagoon pump (electric)

FINAL DRAFT

Review of Application for Planning Approval

Blackmore Waygu Beef

Alexandra

Shire of Murrindindi

June 2015

Associate Professor and Honorary Fellow
University of Melbourne
Adjunct Senior Research Fellow
Monash University
Adjunct Professor
RMIT University
Phone: 0357222824 Mobile: 0429016466

Table of Contents

Introduction

This report presents a review of information provided in support of the following application for a planning permit:

Shire of Murrindindi
Application No: 2014/174
Proposal: Beef cattle production
Applicant: Blackmore Holdings Pty Ltd
Land: 260 Halls Flat Road ALEXANDRA, 432 Halls Flat Road ALEXANDRA
Zoning of Land: Farming Rural 1
Overlays: Floodway, Environmental Significance

The application covers an existing intensive production system on farming land approximately 1.5 km south of Alexandra. For the purposes of marketing Blackmore Holdings Pty Ltd is also called Blackmore Wagyu Beef (BWB). The property is managed by Mr. David Blackmore and it consists of approximately 148 ha of relatively flat land adjacent to Goulburn River which forms the Western Boundary and a hill which forms the Eastern boundary. Dunns Lane forms the Southern boundary and the Northern Boundary is delineated by a surveyed fence line. This is not the only property managed using this or a similar production system by Mr. Blackmore.

According to Mr. Blackmore the production system is unique. It relies upon the supplementary feeding of Waygu cattle in paddocks sown to pastures for approximately two years to achieve a live weight of 800-900 kg. Details on the production system are not available for reproduction because they are commercial in confidence but Mr. Blackmore confirms an average weight gain of 0.8 kg/day / head leading to an average gain of 600kg in two years.

Because the production system is semi- intensive with some attributes of a feedlot the Council requires the developer to make application for a planning permit. Objections have been lodged and as a result Murrindindi Council have sought independent advice to assist their decision making. This report has been commissioned to provide that advice.

The feedlot code, VCCF (1995) details requirements for the establishment, operation and maintenance of a cattle feedlot. Standard practice for a feedlot is to contain stock on prepared land at such intensity that pasture growth is precluded and the base of pens is compacted to support intensive animal traffic, promote stormwater runoff for capture, and to limit accessions to groundwater. The soil density necessary to achieve this is not likely to support root propagation or pasture growth. The density of stock achieved by BWB allows for the maintenance of pasture and this pasture is accessed by the grazing animals for loafing and limited food supply. In addition, feed bunks are provided in each paddock to supplement pasture with a mixed ration. With a cattle feedlot the ration is a total ration and the feed bunk is usually a fixed structure. At BWB the mixed ration is supplementary and the feed trough can be relocated. In addition, water is supplied via dams and troughs at BWB, whereas standard feedlot practice is to use troughs in each pen.

A more obvious difference between the BWB system and a conventional beef feedlot is the stocking rate. Mr. Blackmore claims that the rate is 1 animal / 930 m^2 whereas a cattle feedlot would normally yield a stocking rate of between 1 animal /10 m^2 and 1 animal/50 m^2. Calculations of buffer distance in VCCF (1995) relate to intensively stocked pens in a Queensland environment without vegetated cover and the results of objective research and in reality these cannot be extrapolated to cover the Blackmore farm. This does not mean that buffer distances for odour cannot be set and that odour is not a problem with the Blackmore Waygu production system. It just means that we cannot rely upon the feedlot code (VCCF, 1995) for calculation of minimum buffer distances to receptors (residences) based on stocking rates.

VCCF (1995) provides details on the recommended minimum buffer distances to property boundaries, public areas, waterways, roads, groundwater bores and flood prone land. Because these do not rely upon calculations of stocking rate they can be used to provide an indication of requirements. It needs to be emphasised that in VCAT cases involving feedlots these buffers are not seen as fixed and immutable.

Indications for minimum buffer distances to dairy feed pads and free stalls are provided in DPI (2010). These are consistent with VCCF (1995) and because these are industry guidelines they are recognised as targets for best management practice. The Blackmore operation has some aspects which are similar to a dairy feed pad because livestock derive some of their nutritional requirements from pasture and the remainder from introduced fodder and the by-products of food processing.

To assist planning and to strengthen the case for obtaining a planning permit Mr. Blackmore has engaged Ms. Robyn Tucker of Livestock Environment and Planning (LEAP). Ms.Tucker specialises in feedlot management having worked for a Queensland based group called Feedlot Services Australia. She now has her own consulting firm and provides professional advice to the industry. Her report takes the form of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP). I have read this EMP and a review is provided. This is one of the key documents which Council staff will need to rely upon for decision making.

Of importance is the presence of an occupied residence in the centre of the property which is not owned by Mr. Blackmore. The landholders are the principal objectors to the granting of the permit. Their objection stems from dissatisfaction with the production system and the way Mr. Blackmore is managing the land as well as loss of amenity. Their key complaints concern odour, dust, noise, visual impact and loss of property value. These landholders are not the only objector but I lack knowledge of the location of others and their grounds for objection. I understand that there are a couple of neighbouring properties with residences which are not continuously occupied and other objectors who are concerned about the intensity of development. The township of Alexandra is relatively close and the adoption of a buffer distance will constrain development in the vicinity of the farm.

Location and Site Characteristics

A locality plan is provided as Figure 1. The property is roughly trapezoidal in shape and is founded on alluvial tiers resulting from Goulburn River flood events. These tiers are traversed by meanders and billabongs with elevation differences of a couple of metres. Steep hill country forms the Eastern boundary and Halls Flat Road is cut into this. TM (2015) and AP&TM (2015) show the surface of the land in graphic detail. A drain lies West of Halls Flat Road at the base of the hill slope. It would appear that drainage enters the river via the Breakaway at the end of Halls Flat Road.

Figure 1 Locality Plan of Blackmore Waygu Beef

By reference to Figure 1 it can be seen that waterways, depressions and billabongs have been enhanced to form a myriad of dams. Drains have been constructed to direct runoff to these dams and Mr. Blackmore claims that property runoff is contained in the storages available.
About 2/3 of the property is irrigated by sprinkler irrigation. The water being diverted from the Goulburn River. This water is applied by travelling irrigator to the central 1/3 of the property whilst fixed sprinklers are used for irrigating the Northern 1/3. Waterways are fenced- off and planted out.

White (1990) maps the plain upon which the BWB system is founded as recent Quaternary non-marine alluvium with ill sorted gravels, sands and silts (Qc). He further describes the soil as being complex polygenetic deep, non cracking, uniform and massive with fine textured profiles and many sand and gravel areas. During the brief site inspection this description was found to be consistent with observations and the experience of Mr. Blackmore. It is also consistent with the reviewer's experience of land to the North under the ownership of Goulburn Valley Water.

The hill side to the East of the BWB land is described by White (1990) as Silurian and Devonian marine and non marine sediments of sandstone, siltstone, claystone, greywacke-conglomerate and minor calcareous lithology. The soils were observed by me to be chromosols under the Isbell classification or Duplex under the Northcote system. The terminology podsol also applies given the likely impact of regular wetting and drying with hot and cold temperatures and frequent winter saturation. Colluvial soil is likely to be close to the surface along the Eastern fringe of the BWB

property, becoming deeper near the river where it is overlain by more recent alluvium which is comprises the Coonambidgal formation.

The Coonambidgal formation lies parallel to the Goulburn river where it takes the form of a low natural levee about 0.5m high. This levee limits runoff from the site to the river. According to Mr. Blackmore runoff does not enter the river along the Western bank and the levee also limits overbank flooding from the river. I understand that the CMA has not opposed the planning permit despite the fact that the property is close to the river, relatively flat, crisscrossed by stranded meanders, founded on alluvium and subject to a Floodway Overlay. Recent case studies of planning applications for intensive animal facilities which were denied because of the risk of flooding can be readily accessed by Council staff.

AP&TM (2015) shows dam water on the property to be turbid. This is testament to the dispersive nature of the soil and its elevated sodicity. According to Mr. Blackmore the depth of the soil profile is about 3m, this is consistent with local experience and geomorphology. In order to access groundwater on the river flat dams have been excavated to locate this resource which is linked to the river and recharge from the hill. The quality of groundwater is unknown but I assume it to be high given the continued use of the resource. It is difficult to see how the quality can be protected if nutrients accumulate.

Results of Site Inspection

A tour of the property was conducted by Mr. Blackmore on Wednesday June 3, 2015. I was in attendance with Ms. Melissa Crane, Planning Officer of the Murrindindi Shire Council. The purpose was to meet Mr. Blackmore and to confirm site details. In addition, Mr. Blackmore responded to questions and provided additional information which was not available in the documents supplied by the Shire Council. Of particular interest was the land system, land capability, location of receptors, attitude of neighbours and his response to objectors.

During the visit we were given unrestricted access to the property but because of fading light we limited the inspection to a vehicle traverse. Mr. Blackmore showed us potential areas of concern and we discussed how he had amended practices to address issues. Whilst he was prepared to share much of the detail about feed conversion efficiencies and feed type he was reluctant to yield commercial in confidence information. This is not unusual with intensive animal producers although Mr. Blackmore would probably not describe himself as one.

Understanding of Production System

According to Mr. Blackmore the practice of supplementary feeding employed by BWB is not grain feeding. The ration is based on a range of by- products with an elevated level of roughage and it contains less than half the grain that is required to secure a grain fed label. He indicated that the fodder was designed to have the same growth rate as pasture. He further indicated that the grain was not mashed by means of a hammer mill but rather it was subject to less damage by roller mill treatment. He also indicated that because of the design he did not need to feed antibiotics and rumensin to keep the cattle healthy. Although it was not explicit in his description of the production system it would appear that Mr. Blackmore was mainly growing pasture as a ground cover rather than placing much reliance on it for animal nutrition.

The supplementary ration employed by BWB comprises commodities classed as roughage. These include hay and other by-products left over from human food preparation. The grain component is specified to form an average of 39% of the ration during the two year feeding program.

Fodder is distributed by means of a mixing wagon to feed bunks which are located on a laneway. Each paddock has a feed bunk and each bunk is located on a gravelled pad which can be cleaned to remove accumulated manure and spilled feed. The product which is a mixture of spilled feed and manure is then spread on land during pasture renovation.

According to BH (2013) BWB cattle consume 12 kg of feed per day yielding 26 kg of manure for re-use. The size of the animal is not stipulated. ASAE (1991) records the amount of manure generated from an 800 kg animal to range from 33 to 60 kg with an average of about 46 kg. As indicated in BH (2013) and BH (2014), BWB cattle are contained in 69 x 2ha paddocks at a stocking rate of 1 animal to approximately 930 square meters. The approximate number of stock in the production system is therefore about 1500 although the number of Standard Cattle Units has not been stipulated in the documents supplied. I assume it is about 1000.

Climate

The average annual rainfall for Alexandra is about 700mm with a 10 percentile rainfall of 500mm and 90 percentile rainfall of 1000 mm. The average annual evaporation is about 1050mm. The prevailing wind direction is South Westerly. I would not consider the climate at Alexandra to be ideal for feedlot production but I note that relatively small operations are becoming more common in areas where the average annual rainfall exceeds 700mm. This might be a result of climate change. Also. Mr. Blackmore would be keen to state that he is not running a feedlot in the conventional sense and the adopted site has met his requirements despite the opposition of neighbours.

LEAP (2015) presents the results of an investigation of climatic parameters and focuses on monthly rather than event data. For this type of operation Mr. Blackmore can move stock around or destock in times of excess of rainfall or drought and thus the enterprise is relatively flexible and adaptable to change in climate and periods of excess rainfall or drought. I would have preferred to see more shade and shelter in paddocks to cope with such periods and it would be advantageous to supply shade, feed and water in different parts of the paddock at different times to rest areas and build up low lying and pugged zones as well as to resow parts of each paddock. These conditions cannot be mandated in a planning permit but they should be specified as part of best management practice for this type of farming operation.

Water Management

According to BH (2013) and LEAP (2015) the landholder has a 159ML irrigation license to annually divert water from the Goulburn River. 468 ML can also be diverted annually from lagoons .Stock water is accessed from the river which can be supplemented with groundwater if there is a break-down. The two pumps available can be changed to auxiliary power if there is a black out or brown out.

There is a positive incentive for the landholder to protect the quality of groundwater by avoiding nutrient accumulation and associated hot spots. According to Mr. Blackmore groundwater near the Western boundary is linked to the river whereas that under the middle of the property is independent of the river. This water is accessed by excavation rather than bore.

The natural levee along the riparian zone of the river is likely to reduce the incidence of out of bank flow and flooding whilst precluding runoff to the river. The flood footprint should be reviewed to confirm the incidence and impact of floodwater. In recent VCAT cases involving feedlots flooding has been raised as a major issue and it cannot be discounted. Normally the Goulburn Broken CMA would register their concerns should the flooding risk be elevated. I understand that they have not registered their opposition to this development.

Nutrient and Salt Management

The property has been operating as a livestock production enterprise, producing meat for more than 10 years having been used previously for vegetable production. It must be assumed that nutrient accumulation in some areas would have been an outcome of both land uses although high rates of runoff and leaching would favour mobilisation of some nutrients like nitrate and potassium. The reliance on supplementary feed for 10 years with only a modicum of export of nutrient via meat production is inevitably going to assist nutrient build up. BMW has soil test data but I have not been provided with this. The LEAP (2015) report prepared by Ms Robyn Tucker contains limited soil test data. She has raised the issue of nutrient accumulation because soil test results show elevated available phosphorus levels.

I must assume that the differential monitoring of nutrients at a more realistic scale will show the accumulation of phosphorus and possibly potassium in specific areas with the export of the macronutrients nitrogen, sulphur and even potassium in other or even the same areas, as well as salt. Soil pH is of particular interest and more extensive monitoring of this parameter is recommended. The results provided in LEAP (2015) show low pH levels and fail to record levels in calcium chloride which is recommended practice. The incidence of grass tetany may provide an indication of potassium accumulation but no available or total potassium levels were published in the Tucker report (LEAP, 2015). It is fortunate that the animals are reliant on supplementary feed rather than pasture given the risk of potassium build up in soils and the associated risk of limiting magnesium uptake by pasture species.

As much of the property was irrigated and the land is relatively free draining in a relatively high rainfall zone the site would favour nutrient export rather than accumulation but this is only conjecture. A nutrient management plan is favoured as an agronomic management tool and this should also be used by Council to gauge environmental performance, should they grant the permit.

The LEAP (2015) report presents an interpretation of the results of soil testing. This indicates areas of accumulation as well as deficit which is what would be expected but no indication is provided on how the soils were sampled and where samples were obtained. This information will be important if the data is to be used for decision making and for performance assessment.

The report covers manure management and it recognises the significance of manure as the vehicle for controlling nutrient distribution on the property. The amount of manure generated is subject to much variation and the volume and characteristics of this will definitely change with feed type and size of livestock. The claim that reliance on the pasture for meeting dietary requirements will render feedlot data inapplicable I understand, but greet with scepticism. I contend that the size of the animal and the predicted SCU will provide a reasonably reliable indication of the amount of manure

generated and unless independent studies confirm otherwise I would rely upon feedlot statistics for the characteristics of manure.

From my limited viewing of the production system the amount of pasture consumed from each paddock in the ration is likely to be relatively small. The pasture is mainly serving the purposes of groundcover and to provide an area for loafing and chewing of cud. It no doubt also fills a role in animal behaviour which may account for the superior quality of meat.

Review of EMP

The Whole Farm Environmental Management Plan LEAP (2015) is a useful report which seeks to address issues governing the environmental performance of the Blackmore enterprise. It relies on information supplied by Mr. David Blackmore and is based on a site inspection which was undertaken in a day and is useful in providing a ''snapshot'' of the operation. It relies on the accuracy of information provided by the landholder and the experience of Mr. Blackmore's staff which I don't dispute.

Contact was also made with personnel from agencies with referral roles in planning and their feedback is reflected in the plan. I would have preferred to see more independent appraisal of capital works and operations with recommendations from Ms. Tucker on improvements. It appears that she agrees with the measures proposed by Mr. Blackmore and because the enterprise is unique she trusts his judgement. This is not disputed but I would contend that Ms. Tucker's experience with manure management would benefit the Waygu enterprise.

Normally production of a Whole Farm Plan is part of a process and it takes the form of a physical plan showing deficiencies and where they are and another plan showing how they will be rectified. The plan produced by Ms. Tucker is a report and I believe it would be assisted by a drafted plan which delineates existing and planned works and shows priorities for expenditure and when and where planned improvements will be made. This plan must also be seen as subject to amendment as a result of operating experience and it needs to shared with Council and implementation to form part of the planning permit.

The soil test results are unusual and I would have much preferred that sampling was done by Ms. Tucker with the testing undertaken by IPL, CSBP or a standard agronomic laboratory which provides relatively cheap but reliable results. I am concerned that some standard parameters were not subject to assay and I would have thought that potassium, chloride, zinc and copper test results would be both interesting and revealing. Standard practice these days is to also test for pH using calcium chloride. Apal, the selected laboratory commonly tests for DGT Phosphorus, this parameter is supposed to provide a better indication of the mobility of P than other tests but no results were published.

Unlike the standard reporting for a feedlot this EMP does not emphasize the role of buffer distances. It simply covers the layout of the farm(s) and how the landholder is addressing or intends to address issues arising from complaints or possible shortcomings which impact neighbours or the environment. In so doing it provides a useful checklist for a plan which will be implemented over time but Council is well advised to set buffer distances and to control stock numbers and stocking

rates and even to record these on individual paddock locations to reflect the environmental sensitivity of some paddocks by comparison with others.

Buffers for Emission Control

The buffer distances in VCCF(1995) are useful guides and recommended minimum distances of 20 m from livestock to the property boundary and 100m to watercourses are appropriate unless fencing can deny livestock access and runoff is precluded. The residence in the middle of the farm is problematic and denial of livestock within 100m of this residence would be a sound move. The other measures stipulated in LEAP (2015) appear appropriate.

The floodway overlay could be seen as a major limitation on the development but as the site relies on limited fixed works, livestock can be relocated, there is no effluent storage and manure will be more effectively managed in the future it really should not be seen as the most significant control on land use. The preparation of a whole farm plan which delineates paddocks and the location of features will provide an accurate record of site features and the proposed measures in the LEAP (2015) report will benefit all parties.

Comments and Conclusion

The level of odour relates to the intensity of livestock and the accumulation of manure. It will be imperative to avoid this accumulation in the future to prevent nutrient accumulation and to avoid complaints from neighbours.

Despite the unique characteristics of the enterprise it constitutes an intensive animal production system with little reliance on pasture feeding and much reliance on imported feed with limited export of nutrients. There is evidence of odour from paddocks as a result of manure build up with patchy vegetation cover to minimise emissions. There are similar production systems employed for free range production of pigs and during the drought from 1997 to 2009 many farms relied on combinations of pasture and supplementary feeding to maintain production of meat, milk and fibre.

Assuming that the claim can be verified that the land is not subject to inundation during the 1 in 100 year event and no direct runoff can enter the Goulburn River planning control must focus on avoidance of manure accumulation and associated nutrient accumulation. There is little point monitoring river water quality but some incentive for regularly checking groundwater for level and quality.

Development of a whole farm plan with an associated manure management plan will delineate what works are necessary and when they can and will be implemented. This measure will also assist more effective use of nutrients and it is likely that a nutrient management plan will require nutrient export by harvesting manure, conveying it and spreading it elsewhere or even value adding it for off -site sales.

Recommendations

Refusal of the planning permit must result from objective review of the operation and adverse experience of performance over ten years of performance assessment. It cannot be based on a whim and the Council will need to demonstrate that they have sought this outcome for an extended period. Whilst it is clear that the production system does not fit the profile of a conventional feedlot it is clear that the facility relies on the containment of animals to control weight gain and to secure particular meat characteristics. Therefore it is an intensive animal facility with the attributes of a feedlot but low stocking rates and access to pasture render this classification inappropriate.

BWB relies on river water and groundwater for stock water supply; accordingly there is an incentive for management to avoid manure hot spots and to make effective use of nutrients. Manure export and manure spreading will ensure that the risk of nutrient leaching or runoff to the groundwater system and the Goulburn River is minimal. It is assumed that the land is relatively free draining and the site is subject to internal drainage so adverse groundwater and surface water impacts are difficult to isolate. This does not mean that there are none, it just means that the site is forgiving and has been adapted to the production system with minimal intervention.

Spreading of manure and export of manure to reduce the amount of nutrients on the site will be essential and the procedure and frequency of this operation should be specified in a management plan. The Murrindindi Shire Council should require this as a condition of the permit. Implementation of this practice is also likely to reduce the amount of odour related complaints whilst improving site amenity. It is also likely that the better management of manure will reduce the population of nuisance insects and reduce the emission of greenhouse gases including methane, carbon monoxide and nitrous oxide.

Without divulging the nature of the ration BWB should be requested to prepare a table showing the population of animals and the distribution of animal weights. This is necessary to determine the number of SCU resulting from the corralling of 1500 animals of varying weights, yielding a production weight of 800-900 kg per head. The purpose is to enable the Murrindindi Shire Council to monitor stocking rate at the site. I have not seen any details which yield this information and I do not consider this data to be commercial in confidence. Every intensive animal facility has to divulge population details to regulatory authorities and whilst the facility is not a feedlot it is still an intensive animal production system given the reliance on supplementary feed and a formulated ration.

As there is little reliance on pasture in the prediction of nutrient requirements for the animal it must be assumed that the mass of nutrients introduced with supplementary feeding will ultimately need to match the mass of nutrients exported as meat or manure. It is estimated that 1000 kg of live weight will lead to the export of the following nutrients: N: 28 kg, P: 8 kg, K: 2 kg and S: 8 kg. Based on this estimate and given the inefficiencies of nutrient export with meat BWB will need to develop a manure management plan to ensure that manure removed during paddock cleaning is stockpiled and exported off -site.

As part of the manure management plan it will be necessary to estimate the amount of nutrients imported to the site annually and the amount exported from it as meat. Agronomic soil tests should be conducted at a frequency of once every three years. Not every paddock needs to be tested. 69 tests appear excessive so representative paddocks should be selected, yielding at least 6 paddocks for testing every three years. Tests for standard agronomic parameters are recommended with soil samples obtained from two soil depths. In other words, at least 12 soil tests will be needed for gauging the agronomic and environmental performance of representative paddocks.

Whilst the agronomic testing of soil samples will need to rely on composite samples it is recommended that BWB investigate the nutrient distribution on at least one individual paddock annually. This can be done through testing GPS located spot samples on the selected paddock to identify areas of nutrient accumulation or depletion (shaded areas, feed bunks, water troughs, bare soil areas and fence lines). The production system is likely to yield an elevated risk of hot spots but these could be avoided by relocating water troughs , feed bunks and shade or even fodder cropping.

The parameters selected for testing and mapping should include EC and pH, both of which can be determined in the field. Only if these results yield a cause for concern should laboratory tests on the soil samples be commissioned. The most likely parameters subject to accumulation will be phosphorus and potassium. Nitrate mobility is problematic so manure accumulation and feedbunks must avoid areas prone to runoff or evincing free draining soils.

Monitoring of surface water quality will be of minimal value but groundwater monitoring has some merit for verifying the level and quality. It is recommended that water tables be monitored to determine seasonal trends. Three piezometers should be installed for this purpose. Groundwater quality should be subject to annual assay for standard parameters including EC, pH and DO.

It is recommended that negotiations take place with BWB to confirm details for annual performance appraisal. The reporting should be done by independent specialists under commission from BWB. Ideally a Whole Farm Plan should be developed for lodgement with the Murrindindi Council. This will need to incorporate a manure management plan for the more effective management of nutrients.

References

Aerial Photograph and Topographical Map (AP&TM) (2015) Scale 1:4,000

American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE) (1991)
'' Standards 1991''

Blackmore Holdings Pty. Ltd. (BH) (October 2014)
''Letter to Ms Tamar Johnson, Murrindindi Shire Council ''

Blackmore Holdings Pty. Ltd. (BH) (2013)
''Confidential -Report Which accompanies the Murrindindi Shires' Planning Permit Application''

Department of Primary Industries Victoria (DPI) (2010)
''Guidelines for Victorian Feed pads and Free stalls''
First Edition

Livestock Environmental and Planning (LEAP) (2015)
''Confidential Report-Blackmore Holdings Pty. Ltd. Whole Farm Environmental Management Plan''

Topographical Map(TM) (2015) Scale 1:4,000

Victorian Code for Cattle Feedlots August 1995(VCCF, 1995)

White, L.A. (1990)
''Reconnaissance Survey of the Middle Reaches of the Goulburn River Catchment''
Land Protection Division
Department of Conservation and Environment Victoria

Summary Community Grants March 2015 – May 2015

File No FY13-02

No	Org/Club	Project Name/Brief Description	Grant Type	Project Value	Amount Requested	Amount Allocated	Previous Grant in past two years?	Comments from Community Services Department
1	Marysville Cultural Community Inc. Jazz & Blues Sub-Committee	Marysville Cultural Committee (MCC) is a registered charity that organises cultural events in Marysville for the Triangle community. The Marysville Jazz & Blues Weekend will provide 2 days of free and ticketed events where Murrindindi residents and visitors to the area will hear some of the best local and Victorian Jazz and Blues artists. The grant application sought funds to hire artists, audio visual equipment and other items.	Community Grants	$41,600.00	$5,000.00	0	No	This grant was not supported, the Assessment Committee determined that there was not sufficient information provide on what the grant would be used for.
2	Alexandra Secondary College	Alexandra Secondary College (ASC) provides secondary education for students in our local community across the Cathedral Cluster. There are currently seven indigenous students enrolled at ASC, (from five different families in this district). This application is for the purchase and installation of two new flag poles to enable the school to simultaneously fly the Australian and Aboriginal flag to assist with cultural identification, pride and the history of our country.	Community Grants	$4,250.50	$3,250.50	0	No	This grant was not supported; the Assessment Committee determined that infrastructure works should be funded by the Department of Education and Training. The Community Grants Policy states that grants for projects that are the responsibility of other government department or organisations.

Remaining funds available in Murrindindi Shire Council, Community Grants budget as at June 2015 - $882

MINUTES- Murrindindi Environment Advisory Committee				**File: SF/1078**		
Date	**9th of June**	**Time**	**1:30pm**	**Location**	**Main Meeting Room, Alexandra**	
Attendance:		Ann Jelinek, Ron Litjens, Robert Chaffe, Steve Meacher, Cr. John Kennedy, Mark Leitinger, Heather Bradbury, Sue McNair		**Apologies:** Cr Andrew Derwent, Judy Watts, Roger Cook, Rita Seethaler, John Coyne, Nigel Waterhouse, Christine Glassford		
Item	**Description of Issue**			**Action**	**Who**	**When**
	Acceptance of minutes of last meeting. Moved: Ron Litjens Seconded: Steve Meacher Amendment to minutes of spelling of Leadbeaters Possum and Item 4 – Noted that since initial distribution Item 4 was amended.					
1.	**Matters arising-Previous minutes** <u>Community Energy Enlightened Workshop</u> Heather provided an overview of the community Energy Enlightened Workshop held on the 27th May at the Alexandra RSL hall. This general public workshop was developed as part of the community engagement and education component under the Watts Working Better (street lighting efficiency) project. Rob Carolane, facilitator/educator from Twin Prism Consulting, tailored the information to meet the small audience's requirements. Rob had his audience calculating the running cost using appliance energy rating label details and the energy cost from their electricity account. This exercise demonstrated the amount of potential savings that could be made over the life time of running the different appliances. Rob Shepherd, Carbon Reduction Industries, generously donated an energy efficient device Eco Switch which is designed in and distributed from Marysville. The Eco Switch was given away as a lucky door prize to one of the attendees during the evening. Robert Chaffe expressed concern over workshops held on a Wednesday evening when both Rotary and Lions Club members had commitments and thus unable to attend. Council meetings are also scheduled for Wednesdays. Rob also mentioned Goulburn Valley Community Energy in Murchison involving photovoltaic off grid battery energy scheme.			Noted		

	<u>Climate Smart Agricultural Development In The Goulburn Broken (CSAD) project</u> On 18th May key Murrindindi Council staff met with Tom Brown, Executive Officer of the Goulburn Broken Greenhouse Alliance (GBGA), and Dr Robert Faggian of Deakin University for a project briefing and progress update as part of the project stakeholder engagement activities. The CSAD project aims to generate and communicate specific long term data, information and strategic plans to enable local government and the agricultural sector in the Goulburn Broken region to adapt to climate change. CSAD focuses on regional development, infrastructure and agricultural industry transformation. The project will develop a spatial assessment tool and a set of Local Government specific strategic planning documents to support Council's planning and business development functions. CSAD will enable councils to support the local agricultural economy and design and/or modify their own business planning process to incorporate resilience and adaptation to the impacts of climate change. This project has been funded through the Victorian Government's Victorian Adaptation and Sustainability Partnerships (VASP) program. CSAD is a partnership project between seven local governments and four other partner organisations in the Goulburn Broken Region. The project is being managed by the GBGA, with Moira Shire Council acting as lead Council. Robert Chaffe noted that DEPI had previously prepared a climate change study (2008) which the consultants should access to avoid potentially unnecessary work. Heather indicated that the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority is also undertaking a Climate Change modelling project and as such the CSAD project is municipal based. <u>Leadbeater's Possum Protection</u> Mark indicated that the Council had passed the recommended MEAC motion with a minor amendment and also resolved to call for the Federal Minister and State Minister to cease logging in the Central Highlands region within Murrindindi Shire. Cr. Kennedy mentioned that information could be found on the website. Steve thanked the Committee and staff for their work. <u>UT Creek Inter-Agency Proposal</u> Sue indicated that no progress had as yet been made on this matter. Sue also mentioned another proposal aligned with UGLN was a Ribbons of Roadside proposal whereby remnant vegetated roadsides are valued, their profile increased and possibly roadside champions heading up adopt a roadside scheme. This would align with the public education section of Councils Roadside Code of Practice. Only at discussion stage.	<u>GBGA and project consultants be made aware of these studies/projects</u> Noted Follow up with	HB	30/6/15

		agencies & report to MEAC	SM	MEAC Mtg 8/9/15
2.	**Managers Update** Mark officially welcomed Heather Bradbury to the position of Environment Programs Coordinator (started part time on the 6th of May) whilst Zoe on maternity leave. Mark talked briefly on the following: Environment Policy review, Environment Strategy Evaluation and Stage 2 Watts Working Better project. Robert Chaffe queried lighting in public places particularly Rotary Park. Mark indicated Stage 2 of this project is specific to Ausnet Services managed street lights. Stage 1 of this project had a financial underspend and now in Stage 2 Council has the opportunity to either improve the rollout of Stage 2 by investing in LED globes (more efficient) or an audit and review of Council managed public lighting such as parks and reserves etc. This review will identify actions for future improvement. Robert Chaffe favoured LED as used for industrial lighting which guarantees up to 100,000 hours.	Noted		
3.	**Environment Officer Update** Pre 2005 Native Vegetation Historic Offsets Sue provided an overview of Council's investigations to achieving its pre 2005 native vegetation offsets which address 33 native vegetation removal planning permits obtained by Council pre Native Vegetation Framework. The native vegetation offsets equate to 23,450 plants required by legislation to be planted (similar to replacing them). The DELWP in conjunction with DEDJTR have undertaken preliminary discussions with Council about accommodating Councils pre 2005 native vegetation offsets (23,450 plants) within the Land Health Program implemented within Murrindindi Shire. This option would achieve biodiversity outcomes, improves land stability, water quality and can be delivered by those who have the experience, expertise and resources to implement. The MEAC members supported this Land Health Program option. Members discussed the possibilities to include the old school plantation site and the land adjacent to the landfill site in Alexandra. Robert Chaffe led a motion: *That MEAC support the preferred Land Health Program option of DEDJTR to accommodate Council's pre 2005 native vegetation offset requirements, with the possibility of including the*			

	school plantation site in Alexandra and the Council land adjacent to the Alexandra Landfill site. Moved Rob Chaffe, Seconded Anne Jellinek. Carried. Council officers to prepare a detailed report for Council consideration. Yea Wetlands Fire Management Plan Sue spoke of the fuel reduction plan. Discussions ensued concerning whether there had been modelling completed in relation to the benefits to be achieved in terms of effectiveness of the additional fire breaks. Rob suggested that after a year of implementing the plan it would be good to assess the practice to determine if there were benefits beyond the allaying of fears held by the public as to fuel loads around the built up area, and concentrate on the environmental benefits, such as the removal of Phalaris, an invasive pasture grass to be replaced by native grasses, which could be regularly slashed and improve biodiversity outcomes. The key objective being the removal and reduction of exotic vegetation and replacement with native grasses to compliment the riparian vegetation.	Report to Council Provide feedback to Phil Hawkey regarding the Yea Wetlands Fire Plan:	HB SM	July 2015 June 2015
4.	**Environment Policy Review Update** Heather outlined the amended policy which incorporates all feedback received regarding the review of Council's present Environment Policy. Steve thanked Anne and other members for the thorough job in reviewing the policy. MEAC members endorsed Steve's comments. Steve led a motion: *That MEAC adopt the Environment Policy as worded.* Rob seconded the motion. Carried	Environment Policy to Executive Management for approval, followed by a Council briefing and finally Council adoption.	HB	July 2015

5.	**<u>Environment Strategy Review</u>** Mark explained that the Environment Strategy review had been deferred to the next Council meeting. The previous Environment Strategy had 106 actions of which slightly less than half had been completed/progressed. Learnings to date from the review included; • A need to be mindful of Council's resources and ability to deliver or instead support or advocate. • Duplication - Council has now adopted a Waste Management Strategy and therefore no need to duplicate in the future Environment strategy.. The next steps in the development of the strategy will include a project plan with community engagement plan and it is envisaged that the bulk of the strategy will be completed by March 2016. Rob provided two filters when previously preparing strategic documents; 1. Consider 3 factors-control (stay focused), influence (through partnerships and collaboration), concern (nice but not necessarily core business) 2. What must be done: What will be done: What could be done	To progress the development of the Environment strategy	HB	As per implementation plan time lines
6.	**Members Reports** **Anne-** Concerns continue as to the Garbage Disposal site in Cathedral Lane, calling on further investigations **Ron-**Strath Creek Landcare Group in collaboration with GBCMA fenced off another 1.2km of King Parrot Creek. The 2 neighbours noticing this are now interested in doing similar. Platypus and Macquarie Perch surveys completed. **Rob-**Concerns regarding roadside vegetation and in particular large old habitat trees with hollows. Need to extend roadside plantings by utilising private land adjacent to roadsides. Also expressed concern for developing ideas to help the community increase the recovery of materials from Council's Resource Recovery Centres (Transfer Stations) **John-** Blackberry Action Group event Sunday the 21st June Meet at the Merton Reserve at	Noted – Josh Russell (Coordinator Waste Management) to attend next meeting to provided overview of resource recovery at	HB	8/9/15

	10am. Day includes review of several types of blackberry control along with some new methodology. **Steve-** Great Forest National Park-slow progress as the Forest Industry Task Force State Minister sets up. Logging continues as Task Force being set up. Looking for a moratorium on certain coupes to protect them whilst Task Force establishing-could be up to 18 months. Threatened species summit July 16th. New Leadbeaters Possum brochure now that status has been updated to critically endangered.	RRCs		
7.	**Next Meeting**	Tuesday 8th September Yea at 1:30 to 3:00pm		