

Media Release

The Hon Jaala Pulford MLC

Minister for Agriculture

Minister for Regional Development

Deputy Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council



Wednesday, 18 October, 2017

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON AG PLANNING REFORMS

The Andrews Labor Government is continuing to consult with farmers, landowners and residents about the proposed planning reforms to Victoria's animal industries that will slash the red tape burden placed on farmers.

Minister for Agriculture Jaala Pulford is encouraging rural and regional Victorians to find out more about the proposed reforms to ensure they have the right information as part of the consultation process.

Although it may not be well understood, currently all pig and poultry producers are required to obtain a planning permit before they commence operations as most of the feed is imported.

The proposed planning reforms will remove the requirement to obtain a planning permit or provide for a streamlined application process for small-scale pig and poultry producers.

The aim of the reforms is to cut red tape by simplifying planning requirements for animal based farming and improving the consistency of how the rules are applied.

The proposed reforms balance economic development and the needs of farmers with protecting the environment and community amenity.

Benefits for farmers and the community include greater certainty due to clearer land use definitions and planning controls, more flexibility to supplementary feed their livestock without the need for a planning permit.

Frequently asked questions and other information is available to help farmers understand how the proposed changes compare to the current rules.

Farmers are also encouraged to attend public information sessions throughout October and November. For more information, visit planning.vic.gov.au/animal-industries.

The Government encourages all farmers, organisations and the community to have their say on the proposed planning reforms. Feedback and submissions close on Tuesday, 14 November, 2017.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Jaala Pulford

"It's disappointing to see some groups spread misinformation about the proposed changes that are about cutting red tape, not increasing it."

"Whether people like it or not, all pig and poultry farmers are currently required to obtain planning permits because most of the feed is imported. Our proposed changes will remove this requirement or provide a streamlined application process for small-scale producers."

"It is important everyone has the right information on the proposed changes to agriculture planning controls. I would encourage all Victorians to learn more about the proposed reforms and importantly, have their say."

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