

Terms of Reference – Version 2

Animal Industries Advisory Committee

Advisory Committee appointed pursuant to Part 7, section 151 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* to report on how the planning system can support the establishment and expansion of productive, competitive and market-responsive animal industries in Victoria, balancing environmental outcomes and community expectations.

Name

1. The Advisory Committee is to be known as the 'Animal Industries Advisory Committee'.
2. The Advisory Committee is to have four members comprised of the following skills:
 - a. Technical, policy, industry or community experience working with regulatory frameworks related to intensive animal husbandry or agriculture.
 - b. Expert knowledge and experience of the Victorian land use planning system in a rural land use context.
 - c. Expert knowledge and experience in Victorian land use planning law.

Purpose

3. The purpose of the Advisory Committee is to provide advice to the Minister for Planning and Minister for Agriculture on how the planning system can support the establishment and expansion of productive, competitive and market-responsive animal industries in Victoria, balancing environmental outcomes and community expectations.
4. The Advisory Committee is to provide advice and present its findings and conclusions on the following matters:
 - a. The role and function of the planning system in supporting the establishment and expansion of animal industries in the context of changing industry practice to increase production, be competitive and respond to market changes.
 - b. The adequacy of the definition of 'intensive animal husbandry' in Clause 74 of the Victoria Planning Provisions and all planning schemes having regard to emerging farming systems and practices, incremental changes to existing operations over time and changing consumer preference.

Background

5. There is concern in the community that the regulation of animal industries is complex, uncertain and does not adequately respond to and support changing industry practice or community expectations.
6. The State Planning Policy Framework supports the establishment and expansion of intensive animal industries in a manner consistent with orderly and proper planning and protection of the environment.

Method

7. The Advisory Committee may apply to vary these Terms of Reference prior to submission of its report.
8. The Advisory Committee may inform itself in anyway it sees fit.
9. The Advisory Committee is expected to publish a discussion paper about the issues for the purposes of public consultation and must carry out public notification, consultations, hearings or workshops. All such proceedings will be open to the public.
10. The Advisory Committee must invite public submissions and consider all submissions.
11. The Advisory Committee must establish a reference group to assist it with its work, comprised of people with expertise/experience in:
 - a. agricultural industry organisations
 - b. animal industry producers (both small and large scale operations)
 - c. rural communities
 - d. local government
 - e. food services sector.
12. The Advisory Committee may meet and invite others to meet with them when there is a quorum of at least two Committee members.
13. The Advisory Committee may limit the time of parties appearing before it in the interests of efficiency
14. The Advisory Committee may prohibit or regulate cross-examination.
15. The Advisory Committee may appoint its own legal counsel to assist in any of its deliberations if required.

Submissions are public documents

16. The Advisory Committee must retain a library of any written submissions or other supporting documentation provided directly to it until a decision has been made on its report or five years has passed from the time of its appointment.
17. Any written submissions or other supporting documentation provided to the Advisory Committee must be available for public inspection until the submission of its report, unless the Advisory Committee specifically directs that the material is to remain confidential.

Outputs

18. The Advisory Committee must produce a written report including:
 - a. A response to the 'Purpose' of the Terms of Reference.
 - b. An assessment of submissions to the Advisory Committee.
 - c. Any other relevant matters raised in the course of the Advisory Committee hearing.
 - d. A list of persons who made submissions considered by the Advisory Committee.
 - e. A list of persons consulted or heard.
19. The reports may be submitted in stages, including reporting on public consultation on material published by the Committee.

Timing

20. The Advisory Committee is required to complete its hearings no later than 40 business days from the final date for submissions on the discussion paper or other consultations.
21. The Advisory Committee is required to submit its report in writing as soon as practicable but no later than 40 business days from the completion of its final hearings or other consultations.
22. The Advisory Committee must complete its work and submit its final report to the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Agriculture by 29 April 2016.

Fee

23. The fee for the Advisory Committee will be set at the current rate for a Panel appointed under Part 8 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.
24. The costs of the Advisory Committee will be met by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (Planning).

Administrative and operational support

25. Administrative and operational support to the Advisory Committee will be provided by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources.



HON RICHARD WYNNE MP
Minister for Planning

Date:

3/11/15