

LIST OF PRIORITY ACTIONS

The recommendations following each of the individual topics under 'DISCUSSION OF MAJOR ISSUES' in this report forms the complete list of actions which it is suggested should be instigated in order to begin the process of addressing the issues raised in the report.

It will not be possible however to address all the issues immediately and therefore the following actions are recommended as those which should be addressed first.

Rural/ Urban Interface

- Liaise with officers in the Shire of Yarra Ranges to assess the effectiveness of their education program to the urban community.
- Prepare an advisory leaflet on rural: urban interface issues specific to the Casey/Cardinia region.
- Communicate with the farming community to ensure that they understand the full implications of the State Governments Urban Growth Boundary (UGB).

The Escalating Cost of Land in the Region

- Continue to 'monitor and support the work of the Future Family Farms project being run by the Victorian Department of Primary Industry.

Sustainability and Land Management

- Investigate the delivery of appropriate training courses, which include sustainability, to the target audience identified in the survey.
- Create links with lead organisations in the organics industries so that potential organic growers have ready access to relevant information.

Water

- Liaise with Frankston and Mornington Peninsula Councils to ensure a 'Regional' approach to farm water issues.
- Maintain existing contacts with Southern Rural Water, South East Water and Melbourne Water to promote the ongoing supplies of adequate water for the regions farmers.
- In relation to the Eastern Irrigation Scheme:
 - Identify the prime farming zones which will accommodate expansion due to the Eastern Irrigation Scheme recycled water and protect them from development or inappropriate uses.
 - Protect existing farming zones to give security of tenure to potential agricultural investors.
 - Identify potential extension routes to the currently proposed irrigation supply pipe line.
 - Identify and communicate with potential new agricultural investors to the region. Plan for future infrastructure needs brought about by increased farming activity
 - Potential sites for new businesses, eg. aquaculture, hydroponics
 - Roads for larger vehicles and increased traffic flows

Major non arterial linking roads
Review weight limits Assess bridge
weight limits

Roads and Transport

- Investigate the possibility of implementing an 80Km/hour speed limit on selected rural roads throughout the region.
- Map the major access routes for the transport of goods in and out of the intensive farming areas of the region.

Costs versus Returns Price Squeeze

- Canvas the possibility of forming business clusters within the region.
- Continue to support the growth of Cardinia Farmers Market and explore the potential for other such markets in the region.
- Continue to liaise with the regional Food and Wine Network and involve interested primary producers in the process.
- Explore the potential to increase overseas exports direct from the farm.

The Profile Perception of Farming

- Establish a Casey and Cardinia farm forum network.
- Encourage and assist industry associations to gather accurate statistical data relating to their industry in the region.

Business Administration and Legislative Issues

- Assess level of support for the provision of GST short courses aimed specifically at the primary producer.
 - Work towards making government at all levels aware of the administrative burden now imposed on primary producers.
 - Support attempts by agribusiness organisations to reduce/simplify the administrative and legislative burden now impacting on the farm sector.
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