



Brighton Council

16 July 2014

Brighton's Farm School site to have special zoning

BRIGHTON Council has moved to have the Jordan River Learning Federation school farm site re-zoned as a special zone. This will enable the farm to operate with certainty into the future.

Council last night unanimously agreed to ask the Tasmanian Planning Commission to agree to make the farm school site a 'particular purpose' zone, which will recognise the uniqueness of the school farm, ensure better management of potential environmental health matters and land use conflicts and enable it to operate unencumbered by local government by-laws and regulations.

This followed Brighton Council withdrawing the notification to the Education Department to remove the animals from the farm school in the centre of the Brighton township, and a meeting yesterday between Mayor Tony Foster and General Manager Ron Sanderson with State Education Minister Jeremy Rockliff.

The Council motion stated: That Council initiates a planning scheme amendment to rezone the school farm site in Brighton from Residential to a Particular Purpose Zone.

Brighton Mayor Tony Foster said Council planning officers would today commence the process of requesting the Tasmanian Planning Commission to approve the special zone.

Mayor Foster said it was a great outcome for the farm school and the community, securing the future of the farm on the current site.

"It means the farm school can continue on the existing site with the State Government assuming full responsibility for all issues, with the Minister committing to enhance and add to the school's value and education outcomes.

"Our meeting with the Minister was highly productive with Minister Rockliff agreeing to work with us, not only to secure the future of the school farm, but also to look at the broader education needs of the Brighton community.

"That is what we have been seeking all along and I am extremely pleased with the Minister's response.

"Brighton Council is a strong supporter of the Jordan River Learning Federation school farm and the benefits it provides for school students and the community. We wanted to ensure it was sustainable, but there were conflicts with local government by-laws and public health considerations.

“By creating a particular purpose zone for the farm and the State Government assuming full responsibility, these issues will be resolved and we can all be confident that the school farm can operate permanently on its current site.”

Mayor Foster said he was particularly pleased that Minister Rockliff would consider the future education needs of the Brighton community and he looked forward to working with him to plan and develop the necessary facilities and resources.

“Brighton is a rapidly growing region and we not only want to ensure that the farm school is developed to provide an even better learning experience for a wider group of students, but also to address the total education needs of our community.

“For example, we want to provide improved education opportunities for our students, so that they can choose to undertake their high school studies here rather than travel to Glenorchy and Hobart, as many of them do today.

“We will be meeting again with the Minister in a month or so and Council is determined to continue to progress this to achieve the best possible education outcomes for our community.

“Today, we have resolved the school farm issue and that is welcomed by the Brighton Council and the Brighton community,” Mayor Foster said.

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