



14 July 2014

Farm school notification withdrawn

BRIGHTON Council has withdrawn the notification to the Education Department to remove the animals from the Jordan River Learning Federation farm school at Brighton.

Brighton Mayor Tony Foster met with the Council General Manager this morning and the General Manager decided to use his discretion to withdraw the notification.

This means that the animals can remain at the existing school farm location.

Mayor Foster said both he and the General Manager agreed that the heat needed to be taken out of the issue so that the meeting to be held tomorrow with Education Minister Jeremy Rockliff could proceed in a productive manner and importantly, in the interests of establishing a sustainable future for the school farm.

Mayor Foster said Brighton Council was strongly supportive of the continuation of the school farm and wanted to see it placed on a sustainable basis where it could expand and provide increased opportunities for students and the community.

“Unfortunately the issues surrounding public health and the by-laws have been misinterpreted as Council wanting to close the school farm. That was never the intention so the best solution is to withdraw the notification so that we can discuss the future of the school farm in a rational manner.

“With the General Manager withdrawing the notification, that can now take place and the Jordan River Learning Federation farm school can continue to operate at its current location in Brighton.”

Mayor Foster said Council General Manager Ron Sanderson had acted within his regulatory responsibilities in issuing the original notification and had recognised the development pressures being placed on the school farm.

“We believe there is a great opportunity for expansion of the farm and to establish it as a proper working farm where students can use modern equipment and learn real farming skills including driving tractors, milking cows and cutting hay.

“Just imagine the positive outcomes if the students could study on a real farm of significant size and learning skills?

“However, we understand the varying community concerns and believe it best to take a step back and calmly discuss this matter with the Minister.

“Brighton Council looks forward to meeting with the Minister tomorrow and to working with him to achieve a sustainable solution that will see the school farm in Brighton continue to play an important role for students and in our community,” Mayor Foster said.

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