

MIN 47698.03 - TPA22932

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
CENTRAL DOCUMENT EXCHANGE M29

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 16 April 2003 regarding a petition against a proposed poultry farm at Sawmill Road, Aratula.

Under the *Integrated Planning Act 1997* (the Act) the responsibility for preparing administering and enforcing planning schemes to manage development rests with the relevant local government, in this case Boonah Shire Council (Council).

Officers of my Department of Local Government and Planning have contacted Council and were advised that the Council approved the proposed poultry farm development on 25 March 2003 subject to conditions. Officers of my Department were further advised that the development application for the proposed poultry farm was subject to 'code' assessment in accordance with Council's planning scheme provisions. Under the Act, there are no statutory requirements for applicants to undertake public notification for code assessable development.

The decision to make the poultry farm 'code' assessable is a determination of Council. Whilst I appreciate the petitioners' concerns, as the Minister for Local Government and Planning, I have a strong obligation under the *Local Government Act 1993* to respect the independence and authority of individual councils and have no powers to intervene in this matter.

I trust this information is helpful to you.

Yours sincerely

Nita Cunningham MP
Minister for Local Government and Planning