

4 July 2025

The Shire of Murray Planning Services 1915 Pinjarra Road, Pinjarra WA 6208

Subject: Planning Application for Pasture-Raised Chicken Operation – Lot 192 Morrell Road, Fairbridge

Dear Sir/Madam,

We, Jacaranda Hill Farm, hereby submit this planning application for the establishment and operation of a pasture-raised chicken enterprise on our property located at Lot 192 Morrell Road, Fairbridge WA 6208

1. Property Details:

- **Legal Description:** Lot 192, Plan/Diagram DP70347
- **Street Address:** Lot 192 Morrell Road, Fairbridge WA 6208
- **Current Zoning:** Rural
- **Total Property Area:** 108ac
- **Existing Land Use:** Rural

2. Proposal Description:

This application seeks planning approval for the keeping of pasture-raised chickens for egg production. Our operation will involve the use of mobile shelters/caravans that are regularly moved across designated pasture areas to ensure fresh forage, even manure distribution, and minimise environmental impact. No permanent fixed structures are proposed for the housing of the chickens.

3. Justification for Pasture-Raised System:

Our commitment to a pasture-raised system aligns with sustainable agricultural practices and promotes high animal welfare standards. Key benefits include:

- **Improved Animal Welfare:** Chickens have continuous access to fresh pasture, sunlight, and the ability to express natural behaviours such as foraging, dust bathing, and scratching.
- **Environmental Benefits:**
 - **Soil Health:** Regular rotation prevents overgrazing, enhances soil fertility through natural manure distribution, and improves pasture health.
 - **Reduced Runoff:** Dispersed droppings reduce concentrated nutrient loading and minimise potential for runoff.
 - **Biodiversity:** Promotes a healthier ecosystem by integrating animals into the natural landscape.
- **Product Quality:** Pasture-raised eggs are known for their enhanced flavour and nutritional profile.

4. Operational Details:

- **Proposed Number of Chickens:** Max 500 Birds

- **Housing:** Mobile chicken shelters/caravans (e.g., "chicken tractors") will be utilised, providing protection from elements and predators, as well as roosting and nesting areas. These will be moved [e.g., daily/every few days/weekly] to fresh pasture, as required.
- **Water Supply:** Chickens will have constant access to fresh water via [e.g., nipple drinkers, troughs] supplied from the main dam.
- **Supplementary Feed:** ISA Brown Layer Pellets. Feed will be stored securely in pest-proof containers.
- **Predator Management:** Electric fencing will be used to help with foxes. The mobile shelters will automatically close at night for added protection. Spreading out feeders, shelters and other mobile equipment throughout the designated area will help with ariel predators, like eagles.
- **Waste Management:** Manure will be naturally distributed across pastures through rotational grazing. Any accumulated waste within shelters will be composted on-site in a designated area. Individual dead birds will be buried at a depth to deter wild animals digging, with larger death numbers sent to an approved disposal facility.
- **Odour Management:** The rotational grazing system inherently minimises odour as manure is dispersed and broken down naturally by soil organisms. Regular movement of shelters prevents concentrated build-up.
- **Noise Management:** Chickens are generally quiet. Any potential noise will be mitigated by the dispersed nature of the operation and setback distances from neighbours. Our nearest live-in neighbour is 1.2km away.
- **Health and Biosecurity:** A comprehensive biosecurity plan will be implemented, including [e.g., strict visitor protocols, quarantine of new birds, regular health monitoring, prompt removal of sick birds]. We are aware of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) registration requirements for poultry owners.
- **Buffer Zones and Setbacks:** All operations will adhere to required setback distances from property boundaries, dwellings, public buildings, waterways, and drainage lines as per Shire of Murray Local Planning Policies. Mobile shelters will be kept at least 15m from property boundaries and 30m from the nearest watercourse.

5. Environmental Considerations:

- **Waterways/Wetlands:** The shelters will be used more than 50m from any water courses or bodies found on the property.
- **Soil Erosion:** Regular pasture rotation will maintain ground cover, preventing soil erosion.
- **Vegetation:** Existing remnant vegetation and trees will be protected and potentially utilised for shade and shelter. Fencing will be implemented to exclude chickens from sensitive environmental areas as required.

6. Amenity Considerations:

- **Neighbour Impact:** We are committed to being good neighbours. The proposed pasture-raised system is designed to minimise any potential amenity impacts such as noise, odour, or flies due to the dispersed nature of the operation and regular movement of birds.

- **Visual Impact:** The mobile shelters are of a design that blends with the rural landscape. They will be regularly moved, preventing any permanent visual impact in one location.

7. Declaration:

We declare that the information provided in this application is true and correct to the best of our knowledge. We understand that this application is subject to the provisions of the Shire of Murray Local Planning Scheme No. 4 and relevant Local Laws.

Thank you for considering our application. We look forward to discussing this proposal further and providing any additional information required.

Yours sincerely,

Robert Cass & Sarah James

Jacaranda Hill Farm