

POLICY NO:	105
POLICY TITLE:	RIGHT TO FARM POLICY
SECTION RESPONSIBLE:	ENVIRONMENT & PLANNING
MINUTE NO:	2183
REVIEW DATE:	31 DECEMBER 2012

POLICY OBJECTIVE

Greater Hume Shire is predominantly a rural shire and much of its local economy is built on the strength and viability of the many rural and agricultural industries operating in the shire. On this basis, this policy outlines Council's position on the 'right to farm' and the many issues associated with farming that may be impinged upon by urban expansion or expectations.

RELATED LEGISLATION

The Protection of the Environment Operations Act provides the legislative framework within which all activities with regard to noise, odour, pollution, etc. must comply.

POLICY STATEMENT

When conflict arises between landowners undertaking genuine agricultural pursuits and non agricultural/occupiers, Council's position on the 'right to farm' as outlined as follows shall be considered when dealing with issues and passed onto complainants.

Greater Hume Shire Council supports the right of persons to carry out legitimate and compliant rural and agricultural uses and practices on rural land.

Greater Hume Shire Council will not support any action to interfere with the legitimate rural and agricultural use of land where the activity is in accordance with relevant legislation.

When an inquiry is made by an intending rural land purchaser or landholder, the person is advised the legitimate rural and agricultural uses of land may include:

- Logging and milling of timber
- Livestock feed lots
- Piggeries/poultry farming
- Dairies

- Dogs barking
- Noise from cattle and other livestock
- Intensive livestock waste disposal systems and ponds
- Burning of stubble
- Clearing and cultivation of land
- The growing of any agricultural crop or pasture species including those that may produce detectable aromas or pollens, e.g. canola and lucerne
- Bushfire hazard reduction burning
- Construction of firebreaks
- Construction of dams, drains and contour banks
- Fencing
- Use of agricultural machinery (tractors, chainsaws, motor-bikes, etc.)
- Pumping and irrigation
- Herbicide spraying
- Pesticide spraying
- Aerial spraying
- Animal husbandry practices (castration, dehorning, etc.)
- Driving livestock on roads
- Fodder production
- Construction of access roads and tracks
- Slashing and mowing vegetation
- Planting of woodlots
- Extractive industries
- Stockyards
- Traffic on unsealed rural roads

Such rural activities are likely to cause nuisance in respect of noise, odours, dust, spray emissions, smoke, vibration, blasting, etc. during 24 hours including early mornings and late evenings.

RIGHT TO FARM POLICY

Intending purchasers and owners of rural land who consider they may have difficulty in living with the above practices being carried out on adjacent or nearby land should seriously consider their position.

POLICY DOCUMENT CONTROL

Right To Farm Policy	First adopted	Date 17Feb10 Min 2183
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