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**Department of Planning, Industry and Environment:
Hawkesbury Centre of Excellence (SSD-15001460)
2 College Street RICHMOND NSW (Lot 2 DP 1051798)**

Attention: Mr N Shergill

Senior Town Planner, Social Infrastructure Assessments

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

4 Parramatta Square, 12 Darcy Street

PARRAMATTA NSW 2150

Re: Hawkesbury Centre of Excellence (COE)

The objective of the CoE is to provide a focus site for school education that can support teaching in the agricultural sciences. The CoE will involve farming enterprises, learning facilities to support teaching and learning to students in agricultural education.

However, the CoE is not a fully functioning farm, rather a site for teaching and observation of small scale agricultural practice. Teaching is the central focus and not agricultural production.

The CoE will support teaching and learning for industry and educators in NSW. This will be delivered through programs facilitated directly through the CoE with other high schools in NSW.

After discussions with the planning team for the Centre of Excellence based on the Western Sydney University Campus, Hawkesbury, NSW, the following matters will be addressed as part a farm management plan and be provided following development of a detailed farm plan.

- i) Proposed hours of operation

- ii) Details on the animals to be kept and type of housing for each species
- iii) Details on animal handling facilities and management will be included
- iv) Details on likely methods of management of stock to maximize animal well-being and teaching efficacy
- v) Water use details including volumes used and sources, water quality, likely frequency of use and irrigation methods.
- vi) Areas of designated for use for pastures, crop, horticulture, viticulture and orchard management
- vii) Proposed estimates of fertiliser use
- viii) Chemical use and management including methods to reduce potential for spray drift.
- ix) Methods to reduce and minimize the risk of dust or odour pollution.
- x) An evaluation of the risks associated with noise management.
- xi) Distances to sensitive indicators will be determined and assessed for risk of impact
- xii) A process for handling complaints will be outlined.

The production of the 'Farm Management Plan' will be based on best practice guidelines for 'Intensive Livestock Development (2019): NSW Department of Planning and Environment', while recognizing that the scale of the Centre of Excellence does not require application of those standards to the development.

The Farm Management Plan will be finalised within 12 months of commencement of operation of the school to ensure that the functional aspects of the management are correctly addressed.

The process of development of the final farm plan needs to reflect detail on the specific orchard, horticultural and indigenous plantings, the class of stock within stock species and be refined by the interests of teaching staff. Areas and amounts of irrigation will be influenced by these considerations. These matters will be clarified over the coming months and be finalised within the 12 months.

Yours Sincerely

Ian J Lean BVSc, DVSc, PhD, MANZCVS
Specialist in Medicine and Production of Cattle