

# Media Release

## Environment Protection Authority



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## EPA has not delayed Mayura Station development

The EPA has refuted suggestions that it is stifling the expansion of a significant business in the South East by creating “road blocks” and applying unnecessary “red tape”.

The unsubstantiated claim that was reported in the Border Watch newspaper last week, also pointed to an unnamed meat producer who it reported has said had been waiting three years for the EPA to approve a feedlot development.

The EPA has received eight feedlot applications in the South East over the last five years which have all been dealt within the statutory six-week time frame and does not include the time taken by an applicant to respond to requests for additional information.

The Mayura Station is a 2,400 hectare property near Millicent that farms Wagyu cattle for the international market.

This company first lodged a development application for a feedlot in 2005 when the EPA advised that its close proximity to neighbouring houses would raise odour issues and therefore restrict its ability to expand in the future.

In September 2011 Mayura Station sought to expand its operations for a 2,000-head cattle feedlot to an alternative location with a greater separation distance from nearby houses.

Excluding the time taken by the applicant to supply the EPA with requested information, it took 38 days to complete the assessment in April 2012, which was within the six-week statutory timeframe.

In May of the same year, the Wattle Range Council approved a Development Plan Consent but this was not progressed.

EPA Executive Director Operations Andrew Wood, said a development application was lodged with the Wattle Range Council on 27 July this year, for an expansion of the Mayura Station feedlot from its existing 500-head cattle to 619.

“Two days after this application was lodged, it was referred to the EPA which provided a response on 9 September, within the six-week statutory timeframe,” Mr Wood said.

“This application was granted consent on 30 September with 10 conditions, five each from the EPA and the Wattle Range Council.”

The EPA subsequently received a request from the applicant on 4 November seeking a change to one of the conditions and is now finalising a response which will be completed shortly.

“The EPA acknowledged that a condition relating to a clay lining for the construction of a pen floor was changed to the appropriate hard compacted and graded floor,” Mr Wood said.

“Every stage of this application process has progressed within the statutory timeframe and any suggestion that the EPA is responsible for a three year delay is plainly incorrect.”

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