Egg farm to get cracking

By Fiona Sexton

A BANGHOLME egg farmer has won a planning appeal to triple his chicken numbers.

Andrew Postregna from Tamarix poultry farm in Frankston-Dandenong Rd took his plans to increase bird numbers from 40,000 to 120,000, and build new sheds, to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal after Greater Dandenong Council rejected them last year.

The council said the plans would adversely affect residents from the nearby Willow Lodge mobile home village, which has 500 residents.

The plans also attracted 14 objections and two petitions, with many objectors from the village.

They complained the expansion would increase odours, flies, feathers and rodents.

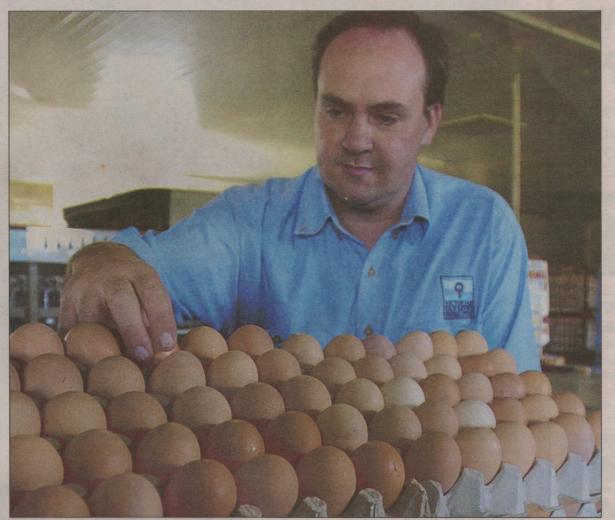
But in her decision, tribunal member Jane Monk said the plans were in line with the area's Green Wedge zoning, a designated no-development area.

Ms Monk attached several pollutioncontrol conditions to the permit, including an environmental management plan.

She also said the objectors' complaints about flies lacked substance.

"The caravan park, the mobile home village and the poultry farm have coexisted for many years without complaint, other than quite regular resident concerns about the number of flies that appear at various times," she said. "This is a concern that has been levied at the poultry farm, although not necessarily proven."

A Willow Lodge resident who lives a block away from the farm's boundary,



Poultry farmer Andrew Postregna plans to raise bird numbers to 120,000.

Picture: CHRIS EASTMAN. N430S217

and who asked not to be named, said flies were always "horrendous" during summer.

But Willow Lodge spokesman Scott Elliott said he was satisfied with the

pollution controls and design changes imposed by the tribunal.

Mr Postregna said that when he increased bird numbers he would also introduce new technology to tightly

control flies and smells. "The (new) sheds will be (better) sealed to contain smells, and manure will be cleaned out on belts every week," he said.

Diet he to poor resider

GREATER Dandenong \$200,000 grant to he residents improve the

The council will use VicHealth money ove years to promote and disadvantaged reside including some new rabout healthy eating

Health planner Deb said the "community project" would look a finding healthy food, lack of transport, por skills and cultural pro-

VicHealth will distri \$1.5 million across to in a bid to improve ac healthy food among \ disadvantaged throug "Food For All" schen

Nearby Cardinia and councils have also w

VicHealth chief exe officer Rob Moodie so food played a major ro people's nutrition.

"We're finding that economic groups are to suffer from both or and under-nutrition a higher incidence of d disease," Dr Moodie

"It's not because p know what to eat. Th that cheaper, higher are often more access

The scheme will loo difficulties that migh people's eating habit poor public transport and unemployment.