

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 pollution-control 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 co-existed 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. N43OS217

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 reside

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

The council will use
VicHealth money over
years to promote and
disadvantaged reside
including some new r
about healthy eating

Health planner Debi
said the "community
project" would look a
finding healthy food,
lack of transport, po
skills and cultural pr
VicHealth will distri
\$1.5 million across t
in a bid to improve ac
healthy food among v
disadvantaged throu
"Food For All" schen

Nearby Cardinia an
councils have also w
VicHealth chief exe
officer Rob Moodie s
food played a major r
people's nutrition.

"We're finding that
economic groups are
to suffer from both ov
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 acces

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