



# PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

## **Abattoir Appeal Dismissed**

The Resources Management and Planning Appeal Tribunal (RMPAT) has today ruled against Raff Angus Pty Ltd in its appeal against King Island Council and Ors - Appeal 17/18P.

The planning permit authorising the development of an export abattoir and associated infrastructure at Grassy Road, Lymwood was approved by King Island Council on 17 January 2018. Adjoining land owners Raff Angus Pty Ltd subsequently appealed the decision on the basis that the development did not comply with significant parts of the King Island Interim Planning Scheme in addition to the development posing a threat to their ability to obtain organic certification.

The Tribunal's finding that *it was not the intention of the Planning Scheme to impose a significant restriction on resource processing in the rural resource zone* (which covers most of the Island) was of particular importance. Saying that *"if it accepted Raff Angus' argument about the restrictive nature of what could be approved in the rural resource zone, then very few if any proposals for development could satisfy the requirements of the Planning Scheme and thus be permitted to be developed in that zone"*.

The Tribunal also found that the abattoir would have significant benefits to King Island.

King Island Meat Processing Pty Ltd, who plan on bringing full scale meat processing back to King Island and providing a world class export processing facility for the premium beef produced on the Island expect that during the peak three month period of their build phase, they will require up to 80 workers on Island. An expected 50 full time equivalent abattoir worker roles will be generated on an annual basis thereafter.

Economic impact modelling provided by .id consulting pty ltd indicates that (excluding the full value of the beef industry to King Island) the direct addition of 50 jobs in the food product manufacturing sector will lead to a corresponding addition of \$19.1million for the Cradle Coast Region's economy, with flow on effects into other related industries, creating a further increase of \$7.35million in output.

The increase in employment opportunities will assist in attracting new residents to King Island, with population growth expected to have a direct and positive impact on the vibrancy of the community and the diversity of services that are offered.



Phil McFarlane, Director of King Island Meat Processing Pty Ltd said: *“We are very pleased with the decision made by the tribunal today. We have always maintained full confidence in the high quality Development Application that we prepared and submitted in 2017. We had already received EPA and Town planning permit approval and today’s announcement simply reconfirms that the right approval decisions were made then, and now. We thank our legal team for their excellent work as well as the King Island Council and Tasmanian EPA department for their efforts during the tribunal process. We are now looking forward to getting on with the job of delivering a premium meat processing facility to King Island as originally planned.”*

ends

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