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■ Produce market on hold over push to move it out of green wedge...

# Jobs up in the air

By Casey Neill

A Bangholme produce market that could generate 200 jobs got the green light from Greater Dandenong councillors - but immediately arrived at a stop sign.

Councillors approved the DandyFresh development for green wedge-zoned land in Harwood Road at their Monday 26 June council meeting, six votes to two.

But Cr Matthew Kirwan, who voted against the proposal with Cr Loi Truong, lodged a rescission motion that will bring the matter back to the Monday 10 July meeting.

He'll ask councillors to take back their decision and re-debate the application in the hope they will reject it this time around.

"The officer's report provided flimsy justification and special treatment for a large-scale commercial food enterprise that should be in an industrial zone, not a green wedge zone," Cr Kirwan said.

"Does a 5000 square metre sterilisation facility sound like rural industry to anyone in this chamber?"

"Does 8700 square metres of warehousing?"

He said the applicant was taking advantage of cheap land.

Even if the council's decision stands, DandyFresh will have another battle on its hands.

Defenders of the South East Green Wedge vowed to take the matter to VCAT.

Secretary Barry Ross said the council's own policy said the green wedge should "provide a green, spacious relief from surrounding urban development".

"Its buildings, roads, and internal carparks would cover 16.5 hectares, which is more than eight times the area of the playing surface of the MCG," he said.

"If this application is approved it would set a precedent for more such large scale development

that would transform the green wedge into an urban commercial precinct."

Bangholme resident Alan Hood wrote to the Journal with his objections to the application.

"A market is a permissible use in the green wedge zone, but is limited to 50 square metres," he said.

"The intent is that a farmer can use this area to sell his produce."

DandyFresh CEO Rod Kerley said the development was appropriate in the green wedge and he was "happy to go to VCAT".

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BUSINESS — DANDY FRESH.

WEDGE  
CEO.  
MARKET