

DE CICCO INDUSTRIES PTY LTD

A.C.N. 005 753 677 ABN 95 548 834 209

Incorporating
AUSTRALASIAN PIZZA SUPPLIES
SIRACUSA CHEESE
APS FOOD SERVICES
BLUE RANGE ESTATE WINES

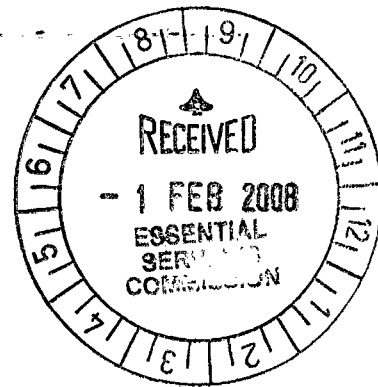
Incorporating

Camperdown Cheese Company Pty Ltd

A.C.N. 102 694 673 A.B.N. 56 102 694 673

25-1-08
10-16 Allenby St
Coburg North, Vic
3058

Angela Garces
Essential Services Commission - Water



Angela,

De Cicco Industries is a cheese manufacturing company that has been successfully operating for over 35 years. Around 85 Million Lts of milk is collected from all major milk producing regions of Victoria and South East South Australia and turned into quality cheese that is largely exported around the world.

Around 2 years ago, De Cicco Industries purchased outright the former Bonlac milk factory located in Camperdown Victoria. This factory had been in continual operation for over 100 years until Bonlac Foods ceased operations at the site in 2000.

Trading locally as Camperdown Cheese Company, De Cicco Industries has been attempting to re-start the factory operations using the still existing evaporator and spray dryer plant initially. To this end, we have been working very closely with Regional Development Victoria and the Corangamite Shire. A formal planning approval application has been made to council which is currently under consideration.

As part of the planning approvals process we have had discussion with Wannon Water as to the provision of trade waste. To date, agreement on the discharge of trade waste with Wannon Water has not been possible.

From the Camperdown Cheese Company perspective, it appears that there is a serious lack of commitment on the part of Wannon Water to assist in the reasonable facilitating of the restarting of the factory operations. The following briefly outlines the current situation.

1. In 2000 Wannon Water purchased the previously Bonlac owned waste water treatment plant. Several hundred thousand dollars of State Government money was given to Wannon Water to assist with the ongoing operation of the facility with clear understandings and provisions that the facility was to remain able to accept milk factory discharge.
2. Wannon Water have not only failed to do this but have turned a significant amount of the treatment plant into a waste sludge handling facility at the expense of liquid waste treatment capacity.
3. Current discussions with Wannon Water – both directly and facilitated by Rural Development – have been met with the response that anything is possible providing Camperdown Cheese Company pays all capital/operational costs.

This situation (as detailed in point 3 above) will render the project – which has considerable local and regional support at both private and government levels – unviable. Given the economic benefits to the local, regional and state economy, we feel that a greater degree of capital planning is justified.

Given that Wannon Water has been in discussion with De Cicco since 2004 in relation to the restarting of the Camperdown milk factory, it is of concern to us that there appears to be no formal indication of forward planning consideration to the provision of either water or trade waste in the Wannon Water “Water Plan – 2008” document that has been lodged with the Emergency Services Commission.

Outlined below, are some specific areas where there may be scope for making the Wannon Water document more relevant in regard to this issue.


1. There is no capital provision in the document for any moneys in relation to handling or treatment of trade waste resulting from the Camperdown Cheese Company operations. (Reference page 11 of 183)
2. De Cicco Industries believes that whilst many of the items identified for capital expenditure are important, a portion of capital should be considered for facilitating the reopening of the milk factory. This is particularly so given that the waste water treatment facility was constructed for the local milk factory several decades ago.
3. Given the significance and nature of the issue (trade waste from the Camperdown milk factory) and the period of time over which the discussions have been taking place, it may be appropriate that reference be made to this in the body of the report. (eg page 16 of 183).

Camperdown Cheese Company is asking that the Essential Services Commission take into consideration - during the document assessment process - some of the information outlined above.

An appropriate outcome may be for early and appropriate financial planing on Wannon Water's behalf to assist in facilitating the reopening of the factory by making suitable provision for the acceptance of trade waste.

The Camperdown Cheese Company thanks your organisation for the opportunity to express our view and looks forward to any feedback you may have.

Yours Sincerely



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Mary Bevilacqua
General Manager.

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