



# Jobs, economic benefits expected to flow from latest dairy initiative

**CAMPERDOWN**  
 By **ALEX SINNOTT**

NEW life will be injected into Camperdown's old Bonlac Factory with a proposed dairy venture given the green light yesterday.

The Aussie Farmers Dairy Company proposed processing factory is expected to create 30 jobs in the district and could even lead to an upgrade of Camperdown's industrial treatment site.

It is proposed the milk processing and bottling facility will process about 100,000 litres daily. It will be the first time the site has been used since Bonlac closed the factory in 2000.

Corangamite Shire mayor Matt Makin announced council approval of a planning application for redevelopment of the site.

He said the development, which attracted no public submissions, was an exciting project for the town and wider region.

"It will be

particularly pleasing to see the old Bonlac factory come to life again after being under utilised for many years," Cr Makin said.

"We understand the reopening of the site as a milk processing facility is expected to directly employ at least 30 people in the first year of operation and that staffing levels are forecast to grow significantly in the ensuing years.

"It says a lot about our shire and the agricultural output and reputation of this region that an up-and-coming company like Aussie Farmers wants to invest in its future right here in Camperdown."

Aussie Farmers Direct spokesman Peter Skene said the company was pleased to have the support of the shire and residents.

"Gaining no objections is a real indication to us that there is strong community support for this business," he said.

"We have to finalise details and we're hesitant

to say too much at this stage because there's been proposals before and they've fallen though."

Corangamite Shire chief executive Paul Younis said the factory site was already zoned for industrial purposes so a rezoning had not been required.

"Neighbours of the site

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PETER SKENE

have been consulted, we've received no public submissions to the proposal and it meets our planning requirements, so it is pleasing from council's point of view that we can pave the way for this project to

proceed without delay," he said.

Mr Younis said the Aussie Farmers proposal had the potential to require an upgrade to the Camperdown industrial treatment site.

"It is no secret that the long-term future of the Camperdown saleyards revolves around wastewater management issues," he said.

"The saleyards make a direct and indirect economic contribution to Camperdown and the surrounding community of \$4.8 million.

"The Aussie Farmers proposal may help facilitate a major upgrade of the Camperdown industrial treatment site.

"Such a project would allow the Camperdown saleyards to continuing operating into the future.

"Rest assured, we want to continue operating the saleyards while the facility is supported by agents and buyers."

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**ABOUT THE PROJECT**

- Aussie Farmers Direct is a franchise-based corporation that provides a home delivery service supplying fruit, vegetables and milk;
- The company was ranked first in *Business Review Weekly's* fast franchises list in 2009 and 2010;
- Aussie Farmers Direct had 112 franchisees around Australia in February 2010;
- Company director Braeden Lord was originally managing director of Baker's Delight bakery franchise;
- The Camperdown site (below) is expected to create at least 30 new jobs.