

TOWN & COUNTRY

Southern Region

Fowl fight divides Scenic Rim

BY TIMOTHY SCHAEFER

SCENIC Rim mayor Greg Christensen has called for calm as the debate over intensive poultry farming in the Scenic Rim intensifies.

The Scenic Rim's poultry farming industry has grown exponentially in recent years, with a huge demand for chicken meat and the region's close proximity to abattoirs and export markets ensuring a lucrative return for farmers.

But as more and more chicken sheds have popped up throughout the Scenic Rim, residents, landholders and conservation groups have been making their displeasure with the industry known.

Colourful signs have begun appearing on fences throughout the region with messages demanding an end to intensive poultry farming.

In the most high-profile move so far, representatives of the Spicers hotel group last week said they would



DEBATE: Opposition to intensive poultry farming in the Scenic Rim has intensified in recent months following the approval of several large-scale farms. Protest signs have started appearing throughout the region.

reconsider any further projects in Scenic Rim unless council rejects proposals in scenic areas.

But the poultry industry

also has a significant level of support in the region, with politicians and businesses saying the industry is good for the local economy be-

cause it supplies jobs and work for local businesses.

Cr Christensen said the debate had been splitting opinion wherever he went.

"There's a whole range of different views around poultry farms. We're just trying to have a respectful conversation to get to a place where

everybody can work together and co-exist fairly," he said.

Cr Christensen said the region was facing a new frontier as developers looked to the Scenic Rim as the ideal location for large-scale farms.

"The industry has strategically said that it wants to have less poultry producers with bigger consolidated farms because that provides more efficiency," he said. "We haven't had developments of this size before and now we're having to work out how to live with it."

He said the council was continuing to work with the state government to strengthen regulations, particularly regarding odour and buffer zones. Despite the challenges, Cr Christensen said he believed a compromise could be found. "When I talk to people on both sides of the debate, they just want to feel confident that their investment where they are is not going to be eroded, and it's hard to argue with that," he said.

Alice Mabin launches her book, The Driver

UP-AND-COMING rural lifestyle photographer, Alice Mabin has released her scintating second large-scale book project, *The Driver*.

The *Driver* was self published by Alice and the 228-page book documents the reality of the daily grind for 110 different trucking companies and drivers with stunning images featuring every state and territory in Australia and New Zealand.

Each trucking firm carts different products, which add to the variety of the enthralling content.

This is the never before-seen real life tale of the captivating lives of truck drivers.

A total of 19,600 professional photographs have been tirelessly condensed into just 700 pictures that finally made the grade to enter the much sought after finished product.

The multi-award winning photographer's first book, *The Drover*, was a runaway success selling out its first print run of 1,000 copies in just one week.

To date, 21,000 hardbacks have been sold around the world with more reprints on



Alice Mabin, the author of *The Driver* and Stewart Morland, co-owner IOR Petroleum at her book launch recently held at Cannon Hill, Brisbane.

the way.

It became a two-time International Bestseller and a four-time Australian Bestseller.

The launch for *The Driver* Australia and New Zealand

on the back of a truck, was held at IOR Petroleum Cannon Hill, Brisbane, and attended by transport operators from around Australia at IOR's new offices.

— HELEN WALKER

Expressions of Interest are now open



The 2016 2017 National Landcare Programme round of funding



OPEN TO LAND MANAGERS IN THE SOUTH WEST NRM REGION

EOI's open 18 July 2016

EOI's close 8am on 15 August 2016

Announcements made 2 September 2016

Projects to be completed by 31 May 2017

Mulga Graze

Contact [Jed Sommerfield 0429 893 994](tel:0429 893 994)

Activities: Pasture and grazing management and training and mapping as part of total property management

RAMSAR project

(Paroo Catchment)

Contact [Jed Sommerfield 0429 893 994](tel:0429 893 994)

Activities: Riparian fencing, replacement watering points, pest and weed control, grazing land management

Ecosystem System Services

Contact [Libby Gardiner 0437 502 936](tel:0437 502 936)

Activities: Pest and weed control, riparian management, indigenous participation and training

Business Meets Biodiversity

Contact [Julie Frousheger 0488 006 481](tel:0488 006 481)

Activities: Pest and weed control, grazing land management, riparian fencing, fire management in specific areas of endangered ecosystems eg: brigalow, weeping myall areas.

The Regional Landcare Facilitator Program Expression of Interest



Contact [Darren Jennings 0428 220 136](tel:0428 220 136)

This expression of interest is for groups (formal or informal e.g. CAM's, Landcare, Producer Groups, Neighbourhood groups, Special Interest Groups etc.) to be funded to run training, increased knowledge workshops, field days etc. Appropriate activities include, but are not limited to: Capacity building workshops, Peer learning activities, Awareness raising events, Extension and communication materials – associated with a Landcare activity.

Alternatively, please phone the office on 4656 8500. For projects over \$10,000 please phone [Libby Gardiner 0437 502 936](tel:0437 502 936)