

Ms Kerrie Hurst  
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To,

Hinchinbrook Shire Council

I am writing to you as I am aware of the Development Application that is being provided by Matthew Klement to the Council.

I want to express the HRSPCA's support of this application in its entirety due to the following reasons;

The Halifax Animal Refuge has been operating since 1991 and has provided a service of re homing dogs that would otherwise be destroyed in our community. The Refuge has ceased operating from its premises since February 2011 due to the ongoing flooding issues at Halifax. There is a definite and known community need for another alternative to continue to provide the much needed community service. Prior to Matthew moving to Ingham to establish the future dog business, there has been no realistic option to continue to provide the service.

As the refuge has no finance to continue to run the Halifax refuge we are looking at working with Matthew as the only real option to move forward and continue to provide this service.

We have worked with Matthew since November 2009 and he has successfully re homed approximately 15 dogs that otherwise could have been destroyed. He is a very experienced dog trainer, dog handler, dog carer and his breeding and dog approach is second to none. He has been trained by the world's best Police Dog trainer Bernhard Flinks from Germany and can provide an invaluable service to the council and community where dog issues persist in the community eg: barking, biting or escaping. I understand he has offered his knowledge and expertise to the council in terms of dog matters and this is a benefit too in many ways.

I believe it to be in the community, HRSPCA's and Councils interest to approve this application and to continue to show support to him and his future business so that Ingham can be known for excellent dogs and training of dogs and dog products and not just known for Sugar Cane, Cattle and Tourism.

Kerrie Hurst  
President, HRSPCA