

Powerless in planning role

By STEVEN BURKE

COUNCILLORS have complained about being a 'rubber stamp' for referral authorities, after the Rural City of Wangaratta was given no choice but to refuse a plan-

■ Council has to 'rubber stamp' refusal

ning permit application.

North East Catchment Management Authority (NECMA) was a referral body on the planning permit bid to build a house on a 20.21 hectare property.

The applicant needed a planning permit as the land is on a lot less than the 40 hectare 'as of right' to a dwelling threshold in a farming zone and because there is a rural

flood overlay at the property.

As a referral authority NECMA objected to the permit being granted because in the event of a one in 100 year flood "it is likely that the entire location

would be subject to inundation from Fifteen Mile Creek".

The property already has established infrastructure for horse training and breeding, including stables and horse swim.

Councillor Rozi Parisotto said council had no choice but

to abide by NECMA's ruling.

"We basically become a rubber stamp to another authority and it makes it difficult for council to make decisions when so much of the power of local government has been removed," she said.



NICE COAT: Galen Catholic College students Des Flanagan, playing Joseph (left), with his angry brothers Chris Traill, Andrew Spence and Mary Paino. They are four of dozens that make up the secondary and primary school aged cast.

PHOTO: Cheryl Browne

Student musical of biblical proportions

By STEVE KELLY

A MUSICAL of biblical proportions has more than 160 local students acting and singing up.

Galen Catholic College, along with St Patrick's and St Bernard's primary school students will perform Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at the Wangaratta Performing Arts

fore, along with Oklahoma, Jesus Christ Superstar, Greece and Aladdin," she said.

"I decided to do something different this year by including primary school kids in the show - it will probably attract a greater audience as well."

The musical is based on the biblical story of Joseph and his 11 brothers.

He ends up in Egypt working for the pharaoh because he can interpret bad dreams and he ends up saving them from famine.

Galen year 11 student Des Flanagan will play the leading role and is no stranger to the stage.

"I have been doing these productions since year 7 because I just love performing," he said.

"I like the thrill out of the per-

Transport company fined \$74k

A COROWA transport company has been fined \$74,500 after 17 of its drivers broke laws designed to keep them off the road when they are fatigued.

VicRoads prosecuted Gaolone Pty Ltd in the Wangaratta Magistrates' Court on Wednesday, following an audit of work diaries from May 2010 in the company's Corowa office.

Gaolone Pty Ltd was convicted of 50 charges including having employees drive more hours than legally allowed, not having long enough rests and making false entries in work diaries.

The fine was exactly five times the total fine of \$14,900 that 15 of its driv-

ers received in court last month.

The company was also placed on a six-month good behavior bond.

Magistrate Susan Armour said the penalty will serve as a warning to other transport companies that allow employees to drive while fatigued.

The VicRoads audit was only the third of its type since new legislation was brought in two years ago.

VicRoads prosecutor Anthony Murdoch said it is particularly important for transport companies to be deterred from breaking the laws given the high number of fatalities that occur on country roads.

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