



Victorian Racing Pigeon Body Inc. A0013892J (www.vrpb.org.au)

8 August 2024

TO ALL VICTORIAN FEDERATIONS, ASSOCIATIONS and CLUBS.

Re: RECENT VCAT PLANNING DECISION.

The VRPB is pleased to inform you of a successful outcome of an Application to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (in which the VRPB was a party) for a Declaration as to where the Sport of Pigeon Racing fitted into the overall Planning Scheme. (C/f greyhound racing; horse racing).

VCAT determined that Pigeon Racing was an “innominate use” under the planning Scheme with no specific requirements and not “Domestic Animal Husbandry” with a 5-bird limit. It is highly likely (but not beyond argument) that this decision would be followed in other VCAT cases.

Thus, the keeping, breeding and racing of pigeons is permitted in residential areas subject to a Planning Permit with normal conditions relating to the general amenity, vermin control etc. Every situation will be different. In the event of a Council objecting to the keeping of Racing Pigeons a planning appeal to VCAT may be required.

The keeping, breeding and racing of less than 80 birds would generally be considered a use ancillary to a residential dwelling as a “hobby” and normally not require a Planning Permit - but a Planning Permit would be required if the Council objected. Again, every situation is different.

Some Councils may require a Local Law Animal Permit which could be more restrictive, but the present view is that a Planning Permit would override the provisions of an Animal Law permit if there were conflict.

The VRPB is developing standard conditions for both a Planning permit and a Local Law Animal Permit for the Sport of Racing Pigeon Racing which it is hoped Councils will adopt.

Regards

Tony Price

Tony Price
Chairman