

Submission requesting Vineyards near Millfield NSW are defined as a Critical Industry Cluster

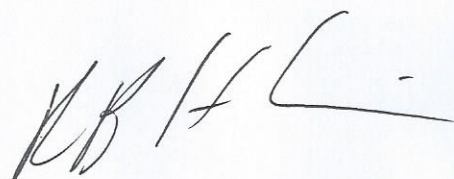
I own and run a business at 22 Hunters Road Millfield, in the Lower Hunter Valley. Part of this business is a boutique vineyard from which I produce wine to be sold mainly in the local area. The name of the business is Monitor Ridge Wines.

I have an immediate neighbour also with a vineyard, winery and cellar door (Millbrook Estate). Both of our vineyards are approximately 1.5km north of the village of Millfield. Monitor Ridge is immediately adjacent to the residentially zoned northern area of Millfield. A third property approximately 500m north of Monitor Ridge has a vineyard and a large winery (Millfield Farm). There are other commercial vineyards between Millfield and the Pokolbin area CIC.

Millfield is a small town originally supported by a number of saw mills, all but one of which have closed over the years. Efforts are made by a number of small businesses in and near the town, to capture some of the tourist traffic associated with the vineyard and wine producing areas of the Hunter. Our local vineyards are significant contributors to these efforts, and can quite reasonably be said to be critical businesses supporting Millfield.

I am therefore requesting that the CIC maps be adjusted to include these vineyard based businesses, most appropriately by extending the current area south from Pokolbin to the town of Millfield. A separate area covering the area to the immediate north of Millfield would be a less comprehensive but alternative solution.

The area to which I am referring is shown on the attached map.

  
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