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Department of Infrastructure and Planning
Director, Assessment Policy, Systems and Stakeholder Engagement
PO Box 39
SYDNEY 2001

Dear Sir

MID-WESTERN REGIONAL COUNCIL SUBMISSION ON MINING SEPP AMENDMENTS

Council considered a report on the 6 November 2013 in relation to the proposed Mining SEPP amendments and resolved to raise the following issues.

Coal Seam Gas Exclusion – It is noted that the urban release areas includes the area known as Caerleon adjacent to Mudgee that has already been rezoned to R1 General Residential. On this basis it is unnecessary for this area to be included in the Urban Release area.

BSAL – The information on the website does not include sufficient detail to allow Council to make a meaningful submission as to the identification of BSAL land. The *scientific criteria* referred to in the FAQs is not specified on the web site. Council would raised concerns that local knowledge of the quality of rural land has not be taken into consideration in assessing BSAL.

Critical Industry Cluster – It is noted that the critical viticulture and equine industries in the Mid-Western Region outside Bylong Valley have not been mapped. Discussion with officers from the DoPI indicates that there is no program to map these areas at this stage.

The equine and viticulture sectors make an important contribution to the economy of the Mid-Western Region. They are significant both in terms of their dollar value contribution to Gross Domestic Production in the Region, as well as the number of people they employ. The ability to maintain a diverse and prosperous economy relies upon strong equine and viticulture sectors which can be balanced against the mining sector. With 496,000 tourists to the Region each year, it is important that these sectors are included in the mapping by DoPI. It is considered that these industries located in the Mid-Western Region should be afforded the same level of protection as those located in the Upper Hunter.

Should you have any queries in relation to this matter please contact Catherine Van Laeren on 63782832.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Warwick Bennett', written over a light blue circular stamp.

WARWICK BENNETT
GENERAL MANAGER