

**srlup - Feedback from Wellington Council on BSAL mapping**

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**To:** <plan\_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**Date:** 11/7/2013 2:16 PM  
**Subject:** Feedback from Wellington Council on BSAL mapping  
**Attachments:** Ann 19 Land Capability.pdf; Ann 16b Soils.pdf; Ann 18 Land Use.pdf

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To the Director Assessment Policy, Systems & Stakeholder Engagement,  
Department of Planning and Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39,  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

NSW Government has released maps of the most valuable farming land called Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (BSAL).

From the relevant Website, I understand the purpose of the Gateway process is to add an additional level of scrutiny to new State significant mining and coal seam gas proposals on this land.

The maps show large areas north of Wellington mapped as BSAL. Given the uniformity of soil types, land use and land capability for the area north of Wellington and west of Wellington, it is Council's view the land west of Wellington should also be considered to be BSAL. As a support to this position, please refer to the attached maps and the relevant section from Annexure 16 of the current Draft Rural Land Use Strategy. The only difference I can see would be a drop in rainfall, but we do not think it should be enough to rule the west area out of inclusion in BSAL. I have not seen published detail of the criteria for selecting BSAL, though I understand rainfall is mentioned as one area for consideration.

I understand BSAL is afforded a higher level of protection from mining in the Strategic Regional Land Use, through a more rigorous approvals process.

Council questions the limits of the current mapping and request extension of BSAL to cover the better farm land west of Wellington as set out in the attached maps.

Yours faithfully

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