

Justine Stratton
56 Smiths Creek Road
Uki 2484

23.05.14

Director
Planning Coordination and Support
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney 2001

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of Uki village, in the Northern Rivers. Our community highly values the beautiful natural environment we are surrounded by. We also seek to improve it by continued native plantings, weed removal, riparian restoration and living a low impact lifestyle. I have personally been involved in bush regeneration projects in 4 parks in and around the village.

I am writing regarding the EZone review to support the proposed environmental protections and also urge further protection for forests, wetlands and wildlife habitats.

I support the expansion of Environmental Protection Zones in the Kyogle, Lismore, Ballina and Tweed Shires, including buffers around estuaries, streams, wetlands and rainforest. I also agree with the report's proposal to create a new coastal hazard zone for cleared land that may be subject to hazards such as storm surges and climate change.

I object to recommendations 1&7 in your report, downgrading rainforests and other endangered ecosystems from E2 to E3. This rezoning will weaken protection from CSG and other mining activities in our most sensitive natural areas by automatically permitting these activities under the 'Mining' SEPP - State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007.

I also object to the downgrading of E4 zones to residential zones, which would include areas identified as core Koala habitat. In addition I don't support recommendation 4, which would allow extensive agriculture within E2 zones.

Finally I support the following recommendations;

1. In accordance with the review the NSW Government needs to urgently help Councils review vegetation mapping to improve its accuracy, and help Kyogle, Lismore and Ballina Councils to undertake comprehensive mapping of all high conservation value vegetation in order to expand their environment zones.

2. That 'extensive agriculture' be prohibited in all Shires to avoid automatically permitting CSG and other mining activities in our most sensitive natural areas under the 'Mining' SEPP - State Environmental Planning Policy (Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries) 2007.
3. That heathlands and shorebird roosting and nesting areas be included in E2 zones.
4. Core Koala habitat identified in a Koala plan of Management should be included in an E2 zone rather than just as an environmental overlay.
5. The Government should support the review's recommendation that all land designated within an environment zone should be a priority area for the application of incentive based mechanisms, including financial incentives, rate rebates, management assistance, and local award schemes.

Yours sincerely,

Justine Stratton