

T Moody
Duck Ck Rd
Upper Duck Ck
2469

5 June 2014

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

Dear Sir,

Re: North Coast E zones

Whilst the proposals make some improvement to the current situations, I am particularly disturbed by the specific recommendations relating to Kyogle.

Simply look at the maps and the areas of E zones across the planning area. Kyogle occupies approximately 50% of the planning area, and yet has at a guess only 10-15% of the proposed E zones. This alone should ring alarm bells considering

- Kyogle encompasses a large proportion of the recognized Border Ranges Biodiversity Hot spot
- Kyogle is within the Greater Eastern Ranges
- Kyogle has the largest areas of National Park and Gondwana estate in the north Coast, but these areas are restricted to the ranges,
- Kyogle has large areas of remnant bushland on private land adjoining National Parks

It appears the planning recommendations are a response to a vocal proportion of the Kyogle rural community, who are in extremely poor socio economic circumstances (please refer to widely available data). The negative reactionary response of such persons should not be the basis for good planning decisions. (NB I too am in the same socio economic circumstances, but I try to focus on the future, and plan for my children)

Kyogle is severely disadvantaged as an LGA, and has no resources to collect much of the data that it appears to be promoted as necessary to make good decisions. As an alternative, Council has relied upon the very best data sets produced from State initiatives. This in fact is the logical thing to do given the resources that have gone into this data. Sure local is good, but good science is good science wherever it comes from – and this includes modeled data such as the Key Habitats and Corridors data.

I believe it is the responsibility of good planning to use the best we have, albeit in a precautionary way, and be ever ready to admit we are not correct. We cannot wait until we have “the best”. In fact it is likely we will never have “the best” until we have the benefit of hindsight – and then it may be too late.

I believe it to be the responsibility of planning to lead the way to a better future, based on an assessment of the best we have, not respond to pressure from vested interests, particularly when the vested interests lack the scientific background and the "big picture."

Kyogle is a disadvantaged struggling Council that has at last made some leadership decisions based on the best available data. From my understanding most of the concerns of the generally ill advised property rights protesters are readily dismissed by the fact that existing use rights exist, and the fact that Council are proposing to use the overlays merely as an additional consideration tool in DA assessment. With respect to mapping errors, there will always be mapping areas. As long as the respective portions of the LEP recognize this fact, and allow for challenges, the introduction of better data etc, there is no problem.

My apologies for this "off the cuff" submission, my wife is in hospital and life a bit chaotic.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Moody', with a stylized, sweeping flourish underneath.

Terry Moody