

Anneke de Graaf  
19 Gordon Street  
Mullumbimby 2482

5<sup>th</sup> June 2014

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a resident of Mullumbimby and have a keen interest in protecting our local environment for the future of my family and the health and well being of the biodiversity of the region. I welcome the opportunity to comment on the proposed project.

**I strongly support** the Review's endorsement of environmental zones and overlays in far north coast council Local Environment Plans.

I also strongly support the Review recommendation that Environment Protection Zones be expanded in Kyogle, Lismore, Ballina & Tweed Shires to include all environmentally sensitive areas not currently protected and the Review's endorsement of environmental overlays for buffers around estuaries, streams, wetlands, and rainforest.

I support the Review recommendation that guidelines be developed for the mapping of scenic amenity and that mapped areas be included as an environmental overlay.

I also support that cleared land subject to coastal hazards, including climate change effects, being removed from the E2 zone, though these should be placed in a new coastal hazard zone rather than becoming an overlay.

**I strongly object** to downgrading of rainforest, old growth forest, wetlands, mangroves, riparian vegetation and 'rare, endangered and vulnerable ecosystems' from E2 to E3 (Recommendation 1 & 7). These areas are all of exceptional conservation value and deserve the highest protection.

These values must remain under the protection of E2 zones as explicitly recommended by the NSW Department of Planning and Industry (Practice Note PN 09-002 – Environmental Protection Zones), and as is prescribed throughout the remainder of NSW.

This rezoning will also 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. And as we have seen in preparation to and after Bentley blockade, there is an overwhelming majority of the community against this destructive and environmentally devastating industry.

Downgrading proposed E4 zones to residential zones (Recommendation 14) is unacceptable and irresponsible as these areas include core Koala Habitat, several

Endangered Ecological Communities and significant threatened species habitat and their exceptional conservation value deserves the highest protection.

These values must remain under the protection of E4 zones as explicitly recommended by the NSW Department of Planning and Industry (Practice Note PN 09-002 – Environmental Protection Zones), and as is prescribed throughout the remainder of NSW. These values are not given adequate protection by the Tree Preservation Order alone.

I also strongly object to removing all protection for wildlife corridors mapped by the National Parks & Wildlife Service. Wildlife corridors should be included as an environmental overlay to ensure they are considered in planning decisions.

I object to allowing 'extensive agriculture' such as grazing, cropping and irrigated pasture within E2 zones (Recommendation 4). These activities can be highly destructive of the ecological values in environmentally sensitive areas

This redrafting of E2 provisions will also 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 further recommend that:

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.

Your Sincerely,

Anneke de Graaf