

64 Hazlemount Lane

Tucki NSW 2480

4 June 2014

Objections to Parsons Brinkerhoff Far North Coast E zones Review

Dear Sir/Madam

The above mentioned review is not a genuine review as promised by the previous Planning Minister.

Immediate action is required from the NSW government to rid the Planning System of the anti-rural Local Environment Plan (LEP) template implemented by the previous Labor government.

The environmental zones (E zones) and overlay maps, being used by the Planning Department and anti-rural councils, change freehold unrestricted title farmland to restricted title with the resulting impacts of a loss of agricultural use, devaluation of the land and negative environmental outcomes.

The Far North Coast has long been a breeding ground for environmental restrictions, which, like a creeping cancer have and will continue to creep south and west to affect the whole State, as confirmed in the frequently asked questions information put out by the Planning Department.

In mid-2012, Deputy Premier Andrew Stoner stated E zones and overlay maps were “nothing but a Communist land grab”.

In September 2012, Planning Minister Brad Hazzard in a media release stated the government “would not endorse the use of E2 and E3 environmental zones on land that is clearly rural in council LEPs” and would “act to ensure the rights of existing landowners are protected”.

Yet despite many promises by the government, the immoral theft by regulation of private property continues. There is no need for onerous restrictions. There are more koalas in the area than 20 years ago (Dr Steve Phillips) and there are significant areas of vegetation which have been preserved by farmers. These same farmers are now being penalised for their good stewardship of the land.

Farmers cannot be continually lumbered with the cost of “supposed” environmental benefits for the broader community.

If allowed to continue, this will cripple agriculture.

Jeff Champion