141 Hazlemount Lane
Tuckurimba NSW 2480

4 June 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: E Zones Review of the Far North Coast by Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB)**

I object strongly to E zones and environmental overly maps as proposed by the PB Review on the following grounds:

- The time given in which to formulate a response to the Review is totally inadequate.
- Any environmental study of an area that does not also include land owned by the local council and the crown is not valid as it is inadequate and not totally representative of the whole area.
- No agricultural consultants were involved at any point in the process therefore there has been no balanced assessment of the merits of this proposal.
- There has been no socio-economic study undertaken to assess the effect on the landowners or the community in general.
- PB inspected property which we own and did so on condition that they assess the affect environmental zones would have on agriculture. This was not done, therefore PB entered illegally.
- The landowner cannot use the land for a full variety of allowable agricultural purposes and cannot use any E zones as environmental offsets. This report therefore supports theft of land by regulation.
- Agricultural diversity is being compromised by bureaucratic rules making farming difficult. Regulations discourage flexibility and innovation.
- Those landowners who have practised sustainable agriculture are being penalised for their good stewardship of their land i.e. those who have not cleared all their timber when allowed to do so are being punished by the theft of this land for environmental purposes without their consent. Such rules are counterproductive.
- Koala habitat is to be E2 zoning despite there being more koalas in the Lismore area than 20 years ago (see Dr Steve Phillips report to Lismore City Council). To make matters worse mapping has not been ground truthed and is inaccurate.
- State wide guidelines used by PB as the basis for their investigations, e.g. on what is defined as old growth forest, are not relevant to high rainfall areas on the Far North Coast where trees grow very quickly and water can lie on the ground after extensive rain without it being a wetland.

- There has been no proper consultation with those people who will be affected. Only a few properties were visited and then under false pretences.

- Former Planning Minister Hazard assured us that there would be no mixed zones on agricultural land. This promise has not been adhered to.

- E zones and environmental overlays are a method of stealing freehold land and as Deputy Premier Stoner stated a “Communist land grab”.

This is a short summary of my objections given the very short time we have in which to comment. However it is blatantly clear that landowners’ property rights are not being considered and upheld.

Yours faithfully
Matthew Champion