

The Director,  
Department of Planning and Environment,  
Government of New South Wales,  
23 -33 Bridge St,  
Sydney,  
NSW.

July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Dear Sir,

### **Objections to the Repeal of the North Coast Regional Environment Plan No 1**

On behalf of the Our 490 Group in Kingscliff, NSW I lodge this objection to the repeal of the North Coast Regional Environmental Plan (1988) (NCREP) until the issue of environmental zones in the far north coast councils are dealt with and are no longer in the category of 'deferred matters'

The North Coast Regional Environmental Plan (1988) specified significant criteria and values to be used in identifying environmental zones and clauses to be included in north coast councils' Local Environmental Plans (LEPs). With the repeal of the NCREP it follows that these criteria will be removed and the justification for environmental zones and environmental clauses will be undermined.

This is of particular concern because in 2012, the state government did not allow the Tweed, Byron, Ballina, Kyogle and Lismore Councils to include environmental zones and clauses in their LEPs and relegated environmental zones to 'deferred matters'. Until these deferred matters are dealt with the NCREP needs to be maintained to give direction to this process and outline clear justification and criteria for the identification of environmental zones

The Department of Planning and Environment's (DoPE) erroneously claims that superseding documents cover the environmental protection requirements by claiming 'The underlying (environmental) zones derived from previous LEPs continue to apply in these areas and provide suitable protection consistent with the REP'. This is not accurate as the north coast councils have all identified numerous additional areas, not previously zoned for protection, that are needed to satisfy the REP's criteria for environmental protection. For example on the Fingal Peninsula an area currently zoned Recreation 1 has been identified by environmental experts as emerging Littoral Rainforest (an endangered ecological community) so it needs to be protected with EN2 zoning.

The rezoning of this area will not be possible if the NCREP is repealed and is not possible at the moment because environmental zones are still 'deferred matters'.

We believe the repeal of the North Coast REP will:

Result in an undermining of criteria and values used to identify environmental zones in the North Coast Councils' Local Environmental Plans (LEPs).

Jeopardise the re-establishment of environmental zones in the far north coast councils LEPs.

Reduce environmental protection in a region of internationally recognised significant biodiverse ecosystems.

Allow for unsustainable development and industries

We ask that the NCREP not be repealed until the deferred matter of environmental zoning is satisfactorily resolved by way of more adequate community consultation.

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