

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

Dear Director

RE: State Environmental Planning Policy Review 2015

Environmental zoning controls have been the last pillar of ecological protection left to the community when corruption and apathy at higher levels of government have allowed developers and their donation funded pet politicians to ride roughshod over local communities.

The system is not perfect but it is a framework that can work with some adjustments to reflect the current and projected conservation status of the remaining non-urban areas and areas not subject to intensive farming practices.

To rezone areas which have been protected for decades will make the state liable for compensation as many farmers sold this land cheaply as it was constrained from development urban or industrial development.

The NSW Government needs to urgently fund a statewide vegetation mapping project at 1: 25 000 or finer scale using 3D technology to the standard set for recent mapping in Coffs Harbour City LGA area with Lidar technology.

No CSG or large polluting mines in areas of prima agricultural or high conservation land.

The statewide Act for the protection of koalas incorporating Koala Plans of Management for each LGA where Koalas are or were present.

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.

The term 'validated dataset' be clearly defined and to include any data produced by generally accepted scientific methods for assessment of environmental conservation significance.

Build a robust and comprehensive dataset of natural resource management information which is accessible to the public.

I strongly support:

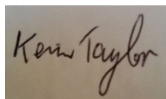
1. the Review's endorsement of environmental zones and overlays in NSW council Local Environment Plans.
2. the Review's recommendation that Environment Protection Zones be expanded in across NSW to include all environmentally sensitive areas not currently protected.
3. the Review's endorsement of environmental overlays for buffers around estuaries, streams and rivers, wetlands, old growth forest and rainforest.
4. the Review's recommendation that guidelines be developed for the mapping of scenic amenity and that mapped areas be included as an environmental overlay.
5. 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:

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. downgrading proposed E4 zones to residential zones (Recommendation 14).
 - 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 cannot be given adequate protection by the Tree Preservation Order alone.
4. removing all protection for wildlife corridors mapped by state and local government environmental scientists and natural resource managers. eg climate change corridors, key habitats and corridors, environmental strategies.
 - Wildlife corridors should be included as an environmental overlay to ensure they are considered in planning decisions.

5. 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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kevin Taylor", on a light-colored rectangular background.

Kevin Taylor

9 July 2015