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Coonabarabran - Coolah - Dunedoo - Baradine - Binnaway - Mendooran

Please address all mail to:
The General Manager

Alia Slamet

Please refer enquiries to:

10 July 2015

The Secretary
Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

To The Secretary

**Re: Submission for State Environmental Planning Policies Review 2015 - Orana
Regional Environmental Plan No 1 – Siding Spring**

I write to proffer the support of Council for the proposed 'update and transfer of policy' of the Orana Regional Environmental Plan No 1 – Siding Spring (Orana REP) as per the State Environmental Planning Policies Review 2015 Explanation of Intended Effect report of the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (the Department).

It is the position of Council that the Orana REP is not currently serving as an effective instrument in its aim to preserve and protect the quality of the local dark night sky for the purposes of the Siding Spring Observatory. Council requires clear and comprehensive guidance for development assessment at the local scale and confidence that there is an appropriate balance with respect to consultation and concurrence requirements. Council also needs to be satisfied that the policy does not place an unreasonable expectation or burden on local development and assessment timeframes.

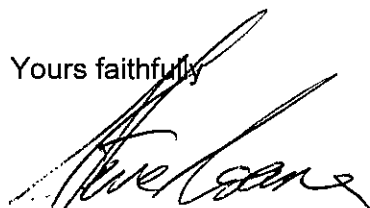
Following consultation with The Department on 2 July 2015, Council is satisfied that the policy mechanisms and reference documents proposed are appropriate, comprehensive and will assist Council in guiding development while preserving the interests/function of the Observatory.

The only request of Council in this submission is with respect to the current requirement of State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008. Although the proposed local provision would not capture development that will not have lighting, it is still the case that exempt and complying development cannot be carried out within 18 kilometres of the Observatory even if the development is not proposed to be lit. Council therefore requests that the Department explores the opportunity to amend this provision under the SEPP.

In conclusion, Council is in support of the intent of the proposed policy changes: to preserve optimal astronomical observing conditions for the Observatory while providing the necessary support for development assessment. It is paramount that the final format of that policy is clear, that it is not unreasonably restrictive on development, and that it is easy for Council to administer and for the community to interpret.

To discuss these matters further, please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 6849 2000.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Loane', written over the closing 'Yours faithfully'.

STEVE LOANE
GENERAL MANAGER