

Thankyou for the opportunity to contribute at Singleton Council Chambers re the Draft Hunter Regional Plan and opportunities for agriculture.

As noted at that meeting I believe the plan would be enhanced and provide a more strategic and proactive environment for the Hunters future with consideration being given to the below:-

- Whilst it is the intention to outline current land uses and associated planning tools a more “the hunter is open for agri business” approach to this document would widen the scope and encourage those in positions of influence ( eg investors, landowners) to look at the tremendous infrastructure that exists now and the exciting potential for its future use.
- The opportunity for integrated intensive agricultural within mining, equine and viticulture lands could be further promoted. Albeit these three land uses are those most commonly discussed, there already exists significant integration within some of these areas. The beef cattle industry is a prime example here and is barely mentioned. How can we explore this opportunity more within the Plan taking the Hunter forward for the next two decades.
- Promoting the opportunity to encourage Agri Business Innovation and new future land use opportunity within an Hunter would also be a positive inclusion.
- A section outlining the Hunter of the Future could be included. I believe today’s landowners would appreciate knowing that Planning is supportive and in fact encouraging them to value add to existing business activities, thus providing on going sustainability for the Hunter.
  - An annual agri planning think tank involving young farmers, major landowners and agi business and investors would be a positive initiative here, let’s set targets within the plan regarding agricultural innovation, production, employment and strive to meet them. Let’s focus on what we can do not why we can’t do it.
- The LLS draft strategic plan 2015-2020 is a detailed document and the Figure 3 a snap shot of the hunters regions primary industries would assist in better understanding the agricultural land use overview. The Draft Hunter Regional Plan and the LLS Draft Strategic Plan 2015-2020 should be interwoven. The potential for lost opportunity and duplication of resources is high should this not be the case.

Once again Helen thank you for the opportunity to contribute. Should you wish to discuss my comments any further please have no hesitation in contacting me.

Airdrie Pastoral Co

