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Online Submission

Mar 21 (24 days ago)

k To:

Black Hill is a beautiful, rural area right at the end of the M1, so very accessible to visitors. Taking advantage of the peaceful nature on our farm, I offer Mindfulness in Nature courses to children, where they see, hear, study and appreciate the natural environment. I have had families travel from as far away as Canberra to be a part of this learning, one example of harnessing the beauty in the Hunter Region to generate employment and support the well-being of many.

My farm is a part of the Land for Wildlife and the Stepping Stones Projects. We have, with the aid of Conservation Volunteers and Federal Government funding, planted over 800 trees on our property to support the migration of birdlife up and down the eastern coast of Australia. Regular monitoring of birdlife on our property over the past 2 years has shown it is one of the most diverse bird populations in the region. This is worth preserving and enjoying.

To this end, we need to keep Black Hill rural.

I am delighted that the land between John Renshaw Drive and Blackhill Rd is no longer marked as "employment land" as it was in the final Lower Hunter Regional Strategy. This area is just across the road from my property and should be retained as rural/conservation land, as it is already partially preserved in the Donaldson Bushland Conservation Area. I do not want to see it flip back to "employment land" in the final Hunter Regional Plan after lobbying from powerful landowners, as happened last time.

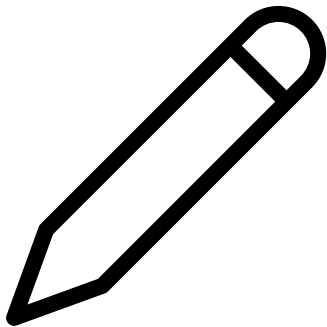
There is no place for further industrial development in Black Hill. The Coal & Allied block at the corner of the M1 and John Renshaw Drive is more than enough industrial land in Black Hill. This development is only (barely) acceptable due to the large amount of land in the Sugarloaf Ranges that Coal & Allied gave to the State Government for conservation. The development also doesn't stretch through to Blackhill Rd, so will impact but not destroy the rural amenity of the Black Hill community.

There is more than enough employment land already zoned and serviced, without rezoning more at Black Hill. According to the draft Hunter Regional Plan "The region has around 15000 hectares of land zoned for employment purposes. Approximately 7400 hectares are estimated to be suitable for industrial use." Rezoning land unnecessarily just leaves it sitting idle, like HEZ, attracting illegal dumpers and other undesirable activities.

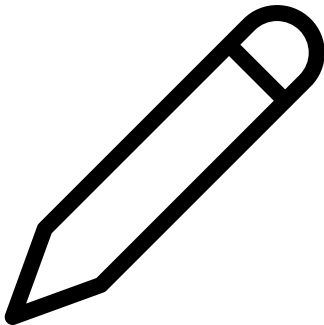
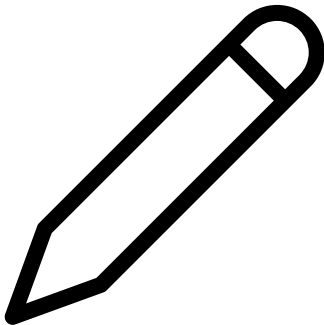
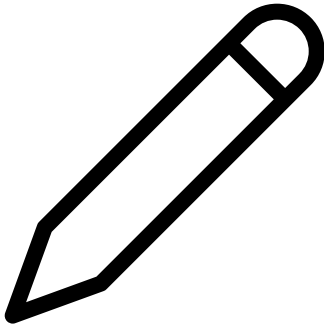
The Draft Hunter Regional Plan ignores the Kurri Smelter site, which has been used for industrial purposes for the last 50 years. Surely this site should be prioritised for future industrial redevelopment?

I support the need to conserve and restore biodiversity. To this end I am studying a diploma in Holistic Farm Management at TAFE Western.

I dedicate my life to caretaking the land that I own in Black Hill with as much skill and wisdom as possible. I study, I work, I share the beauty in my area with families and children, and participate in government-funded projects to nurture the natural environment. However, I can only do so much on my parcel of land. I implore you to support my efforts with a



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