

Trevor Sharpe
19 Sharpe Road
Woodburn 2472

General Manager
Richmond Valley Council
Locked Bag 10
Casino N.S.W. 2470

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please accept this written submission on Richmond Valley Council Changes To Urban Growth Boundaries Briefing Document For Community engagement.

The feedback given in this submission is directed at, but not limited to, the Woodburn Proposals and in particular the lack of content and community consultation in section 5 Woodburn-Urban#1 and #2 5. Justification of Changes section of this briefing document.

My understanding of A New Planning System for NSW – White Paper released in 2013 came from the reading of New Planning System for NSW –Green Paper released July 2012 Overhauling the entire N.S.W. Planning system.

When the new planning system is finalised and the two bills implemented it will replace the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 and is the overriding instrument.

Over the past 30 years, the Act has been amended over 150 times in an effort to keep up with community expectations and changes in economic conditions.

Most of the changes aimed at addressing process issues as they emerged and has become difficult to navigate due to complexity and lack of transparency with little upfront community participation The Act has become complex and legalistic, focussed heavily on process rather than outcomes resulting in a dysfunctional system.

At the time it was made, the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979, was considered best practice in Australia and was then innovative legislation that transformed town planning practices into the broader environmental planning framework.

As time has progressed and we now see ourselves as part of the ecosystem rather than separate from it, a new overriding instrument is evolving.

Up-front community participation during the strategic planning stage remains a cornerstone of the White Paper, empowering communities in the decision making process it is proposed to engage the community early at the strategic planning stages in the setting of the overall planning outcomes for an area. The white paper states that the key objective of the new planning system is “to promote and enable economic growth and positive development for the benefit of the entire community, while protecting the environment and enhancing people’s way of life.”

Flood free blocks of land are needed in the Woodburn area but at this point in time are not available because the proposed Woodburn– Urban #1 & #2 does not exist.

I can not see any Justification for for such a large area to be proposed all at once and after reading all the literature available to me am convinced that to do so would be a mistake. Yours Faithfully, Trevor Sharpe.