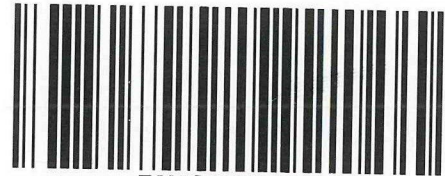




Department of
Primary Industries



PWG002702

OUT16/31011

Ms Linda Davies
A/Director Regions, Southern
NSW Department of Planning and Environment
PO Box 5475
WOLLONGONG NSW 2520

Dear Linda,

Draft South East and Tablelands Regional Plan

NSW DPI (Agriculture) has reviewed the Draft South East and Tablelands Regional Plan which is currently on public exhibition until 23rd August 2016 and wishes to provide some comments for your consideration in Attachment A enclosed.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss any matters outlined in the enclosed attachment, please contact Wendy Goodburn on 4824 3736.

Yours sincerely

Lilian Parker

Lilian Parker
Acting Manager, Agricultural Land Use Planning

Department of Planning
& Environment
RECEIVED

23 AUG 2015

Southern Region-Wollongong

Attachment A Comments to the Draft South East and Tablelands Regional Plan

Upon final review of the Draft South East and Tablelands Regional Plan document during public exhibition, NSW DPI (Agriculture) noted some aspects under Direction 3.2 (pages 42 to 46) that we would like to draw your attention to for your further consideration. They are outlined below.

Map

The map on page 45 has marked some areas of the region in a grey-mauve colour. It would assist the reader if that land identified what that land is marked for as it is not included in the key on the left hand side. It would also assist the reader to understand the implications of the use of that land given other layers included in the map that intersect with it. For instance, the Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land (which is marked) intersects with that land and consideration will therefore need to any potential implications on that land.

BSAL Mapping

While it is considered appropriate to mark land that is highly suitable for agricultural purposes, the question is raised about whether BSAL land should be shown on the map on page 45. Marking only BSAL land could give the message that BSAL land is the only significant land to be protected for agriculture, rather than recognising land (other than BSAL) over a broader area that is also important for agriculture. It is noted that mapping important agricultural land to identify its significance at the regional level has been included in the document and that is fully supported. The concern about the map in its current form, however, is raised as there is very little land in the region that is classified as BSAL.

NSW Government Commitment to map land

The document has included a commitment by the NSW Government to undertake mapping of highly important agricultural land and develop profiles of leading agricultural industries (page 43). While this work is thoroughly supported and encouraged to be undertaken in the region, the commitment by NSW Government to undertake the work should not be included. The project may well be funded by a combination of local government and NSW Government and potentially others. It would also send the message to the community that the NSW Government would fund the project. Whereas it is envisaged it would more likely be a partnership approach between local and state government and potentially others.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment of the Draft South East and Tablelands regional Plan.