

Our Reference:

Your Reference:

Contact Name:

Telephone:

Cara Stoltenberg
(02) 6799 6855

8 March 2017

The Director Regions, Western
PO Box 58
DUBBO NSW 2830

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: SUBMISSION ON DRAFT NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST REGIONAL PLAN

Thank you for the opportunity to review the "Draft New England North West Regional Plan (the Draft Plan)" dated December 2016.

The Draft Plan is proposed to replace the New England North West Strategic Regional Land Use Plan which was released in September 2012.

Narrabri Shire Council (Council) has reviewed the Draft Plan and is pleased that Narrabri has been identified as a strategic centre for the New England North West region. The Draft Plan is proposed to become the peak strategic planning instrument for Narrabri and the wider region and therefore, considers it important that Council contribute to the development of this plan.

Hence, Council would like to request that the Draft Plan be amended to achieve the following outcomes:

1. Provide specific commentary on developing telecommunications specifically how the National Broadband Network (NBN) will interact and enhance local economic opportunities.
2. Council to be kept informed of ten-year plans that will be developed for individual agricultural industries.
3. Council to be involved in the preparation of the strategy/guidelines for intensive agricultural and food processing developments.
4. Council to be involved in the preparation of the guidelines on the identification and management of Biophysical Strategic Agricultural Land.
5. The Department of Planning and Environment:
 - a. complete a review of the current minimum lot sizes for rural zones in conjunction with Council;
 - b. develop model planning provisions adopting the principles of the Department of Primary Industries Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment Guidelines (2011);
 - c. develop in conjunction with the Department of Primary Industries Guidelines for Land Use Conflict Management (including in use).
6. Provide more information on the threats and opportunities provided by the Melbourne-Brisbane Inland Rail and investigate the use of inactive railway lines for freight transport including how the efficiency of freight transport through Narrabri, Moree Plains and Gwydir can be balanced with the needs of the local community to cross roads.
7. Address land access agreements which are required for exploration activity on land not owned by the exploration company.

8. Council to be involved in the preparation of the state wide criteria for land release for rural and regional areas.
9. Narrabri Shires smaller towns and village be included in transport connectivity initiatives.
10. To advocate greater 'prime-time' access to Kingsford Smith Airport for Regional NSW Centres.

I trust this information is to your satisfaction. If you require any further clarification please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Cara Stoltenberg, Town Planner, of Council's Development and Economic Growth Department on (02) 67996855 or caras@narrabri.nsw.gov.au.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Tony Meppem

DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH