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20 March 2017

Acting Director Regions – Northern  
Locked Bag 9022  
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Dear Sir / Madam,

**Moree Plains Shire Council submission on New England North-West Regional Plan**

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

Council envisages a plan that supports business and facilitates growth. Agriculture is the cornerstone industry for our region and must be a focal point of the plan. In this regard the Draft Plan should align with the NSW Right to Farm Policy to provide clarity and consistency for both farmers and service industries in the region.

Council considers that the transport of produce to market is critically important and should be further explored in the Draft Plan. In Moree Plains Shire we have a concerning shortfall between the funds required to maintain our local roads and the funds available through traditional revenue streams to do this. In the absence of reliable transport links farmers can face reduced buyer options and may find it very difficult to sell their product. In turn this can lead to diminished income and reduced viability. It is considered that the Draft Plan requires more emphasis on the complexity and variability of freight movements, including interstate, and the demands this places on the road system. Council submits that completing the transport chain should be a core objective of the plan.

Please find attached Council's submission on the Draft Plan as Appendix A.

Regards

  
**Daniel Boyce**  
**PLANNING & BUILDING MANAGER**

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