

29th November 2016

Ms. Carolyn M^cNally
The Secretary
Department of Planning & Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Email: EIAproject@planning.nsw.gov.au

Dear Ms M^cNally,

Re: Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association (HVWTA) Support the Hunter Valley Protection Alliance on Improving the Environmental Impact Assessment Process.

The HVWTA supports the Hunter Valley Protection Alliance Inc. (HVPA), recent feedback to the Department of Planning & Environment ("DPE") regarding its review of the Environmental Impact Assessment process ("Review") for State significant projects [both State Significant Development (SSD) and State Significant Infrastructure (SSI) proposals].

The HVPA has undertaken significant research and has made many submissions to Government and has spent significant face time with many Ministers and bureaucrats in relation to land use in the Hunter Valley. The HVWTA acknowledges and fully supports the HVPA's recent letter to you detailing feedback on the following:

1. Scope of the Review
2. Building Confidence in the Integrity of the EIA Process
 - Acknowledging the Unevenness of the Playing Field
 - Delivering Earlier and Collaborative Engagement with Affected Communities
 - More Rigour and Transparency in how Decisions are Made
 - Precautionary Principle to Underpin Major Project Determinations
3. Provide improved clarity and guidance for proponents and the community to identify the most important issues and develop a standard approach for applying conditions to projects
4. Improve the consistency and quality of EIA documents, including the accountability of EIA professionals
5. Make the assessment decision making time frames more certain and efficient

The HVWTA hopes that you welcome the feedback from the HVPA and allow the time to meet with the HVPA Committee on these important matters.

Yours sincerely,



The Hon George Souris AM
Chairman, Hunter Valley Wine & Tourism Association



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